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COUNTY BOROUGH OF EASTBOURNE

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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Principal School Medical Officer

FOR

1954

ON THE

**HEALTH, WELFARE AND  
SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES**

K. VICKERY, M.D., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.

*Medical Officer of Health*



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## PRINCIPAL CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
SECTION A. General Information, Vital Statistics .. ..	11
SECTION B. National Health Service Act (Local Health Services) .. .. .	20
SECTION C. Prevalence of, and control over, Infectious and Other Diseases .. .. .	46
SECTION D. Miscellaneous .. .. .	49
SECTION E. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area .. ..	52
SECTION F. Welfare Services .. .. .	67
SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE .. .. .	74
INDEX .. .. .	98

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,  
AVENUE HOUSE,  
EASTBOURNE,

22nd July, 1955.

*To His Worship the Mayor and to the Aldermen and Councillors of  
the County Borough of Eastbourne*

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Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the sixty-third Annual Report on the state of the Public Health in Eastbourne. Also included is my Report as Principal School Medical Officer on the health of the school child.

So far as the health of the child population is concerned, I am happy to report continued progress—although there remains a tendency for some parents to exercise too little care in regard to children's habits of feeding, hours of sleep and general discipline. Laxity and ignorance on such matters continue to impede the attainment of positive health in children.

The incidence of infectious disease has been low during the year and there were no deaths from acute infectious illness and to the best of my knowledge no undue complications in those cases which occurred.

The statistics issued by the Ministry of National Insurance reveal once again a substantial volume of sickness absenteeism among the working population. There is no reason to suppose that this was relatively greater in Eastbourne than elsewhere, but it would be idle to claim that the community is healthy whilst some 6,000 first certificates of indisposition and some 40,000 intermediate certificates were issued by doctors during the year in an insured population of approximately 21,000 in Eastbourne.

The staffing situation of the department has on the whole been very stable but where vacancies have arisen the number of suitable applicants has been small. There is reason to believe that there can be few more, if any, acceptable recruits for expansion of the Health and Welfare Services at the present time unless inroads are to be made into the staffs of education and other social services and of commerce. Progress in the Health and Welfare Services must inevitably be accompanied by some re-deployment of existing resources.

If we are to hope for amending legislation to provide a more useful share of manpower and money for preventive medicine, it is essential first to ensure that existing resources are being used to the best advantage. It is important, therefore, that there should be a constant review of the day to day work of the staff of the department, which now numbers 151 including part-time workers.

The pattern of infectious disease has changed remarkably in recent years and it has proved possible to discontinue or to modify a number of time honoured rituals which have out-lived their usefulness. Health Visitors are urged to devote more time to families having special needs whilst at the same time continuing to encourage the more normal families in healthier ways of living. In the sphere of Home Nursing, some of the needs of the aged are being very adequately met by the employment of Assistant Nurses working under supervision, thus freeing the State Registered Nurses for more skilled work. The Sanitary Inspector, whilst still having important duties in regard to the enforcement of legal provisions, is himself emerging more and more as a health educator and exponent of the art of gentle persuasion.

It is perhaps in regard to the work of Public Health Medical Officers that the greatest care has to be taken in the matter of deployment. By tradition the public assumes that the proper function of a qualified doctor is to diagnose disease and prescribe treatment. This is no doubt his more popular role but it may well be that the highest vocation is in the less spectacular field of prevention of disease and the promotion of health.

It has been rightly pointed out that we are a healthier people to-day not because more people are cured when they fall ill but rather because fewer people in fact become ill.

With the vast majority of the medical and dental profession employed in the curative services it is essential that local authority medical officers should ensure that a substantial part of their time is made available for research and for the propagation of established knowledge in the realm of health.

Bearing in mind the difficulties in recruitment of staff, I desire to place on record special thanks to the members of the many voluntary organisations of the town for their valuable work in a number of spheres. Particular reference must be made to the British Red Cross, the Chichester Diocesan Moral Welfare Association, the Eastbourne and District Hard of Hearing Association, the Eastbourne Voluntary Association for the Care of Cripples, the St. John Ambulance Brigade, the Society for the Social Welfare of the Blind, the Sussex Diocesan Association for the Deaf, and the Women's Voluntary Services.



I would also like to express appreciation of the co-operation received from the local press. Publicity regarding matters of Public Health importance has been generously given and responsible care has been exercised in checking facts before publication.

I desire to place on record my sincere thanks to you, Mr. Mayor, and members of the Council, the Town Clerk, and my fellow Chief Officers, for your continued interest and encouragement during the year. My thanks are also due to my Deputy, Dr. Jessie Griffin, and to the staff of the department for their loyal support.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

K. VICKERY,

*Medical Officer of Health.*



## PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

(as constituted 31st December, 1954)

*The Mayor:*

Councillor LEWIS WILLIAM PYLE, J.P.

*Chairman:*

Councillor W. H. BENSON-DARE

*Deputy Chairman:*

Councillor Mrs. I. A. SNELL

*Alderman:*

Miss E. M. THORNTON, J.P.

*Councillors:*

J. B. COVENTRY  
W. E. HAFFENDEN  
Mrs. W. L. LEE  
W. A. NEALE  
F. A. POPE

## HEALTH SERVICES COMMITTEE

(as constituted at 31st December, 1954)

*The Mayor:*

Councillor LEWIS WILLIAM PYLE, J.P.

*Chairman:*

Councillor S. F. MARTIN

*Deputy Chairman:*

Councillor Mrs. I. A. SNELL

*Alderman:*

S. M. CAFFYN

*Councillors:*

J. B. COVENTRY  
Mrs. E. V. F. FORDHAM  
S. W. HOLDEN  
A. G. E. JUDGE  
Mrs. W. L. LEE

*Co-opted Members:*

Mr. D. R. GENT—Eastbourne Executive Council

Dr. J. EMSLIE —Eastbourne Local Medical Committee

Mr. E. HAIGH —Eastbourne Hospital Management Committee

## WELFARE SERVICES COMMITTEE

(as constituted at 31st December 1954),

*The Mayor:*

Councillor LEWIS WILLIAM PYLE, J.P.

*Chairman:*

Councillor W. P. LEBBON

*Deputy Chairman:*

Alderman Miss E. M. THORNTON, J.P.

*Alderman:*

A. E. DAVIES

*Councillors:*

J. B. COVENTRY

E. O. FINCH

Mrs. W. L. LEE

G. A. RAINEY, J.P.

Mrs. I. A. SNELL

R. A. WATMORE

The regular business of the respective Committees remained as set out on page 8 of the 1953 Report.

# PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF

## WHOLE-TIME OFFICERS

### *Medical Officer of Health:*

KENNETH O. A. VICKERY, M.D., B.S. (LOND.), M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

### *Deputy Medical Officer of Health:*

JESSIE GRIFFIN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

### *Assistant Medical Officer of Health:*

MARJORIE I. GODSON, M.B., Ch.B.

### *Chief Dental Officer:*

M. G. BERRY, L.D.S., R.C.S.

### *Assistant Dental Officer:*

JEAN D. OSWALD, L.D.S., R.F.P.S.G.  
(to 31/10/54)

### *Chief Sanitary Inspector:*

ARTHUR LINDFIELD, Cert. R.S.I.

### *Sanitary Inspectors:*

F. T. RIPPIN, Cert. S.I.B.  
G. N. RICHARDS, Cert. S.I.B.  
L. G. HOWARD, Cert. S.I.B.  
J. N. CONNELL, Cert S.I.B. (from 1/9/54)  
A. MATTHEWS, Cert. S.I.B. (from 1/12/54)  
  
L. R. GODFREY, Cert. S.I.B. (to 16/5/54)  
E. G. WREN, Cert. S.I.B. (to 4/10/54)

### *Superintendent of Home Nursing Service and Non-Medical Supervisor of Midwives:*

Miss I. MORLEY, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N. (from 24/1/54)

### *Domiliary Nurses:*

#### *(a) Whole-time*

Miss R. N. ANDREWS, S.R.N., Q.N. (from 14/9/54)  
Mrs. J. BOOTHROYD, S.R.N., S.R.F.N., Q.N.  
Mrs. W. G. FINCH, S.R.N.  
Miss M. A. GETHEN, S.R.N., Q.N.  
Mr. G. J. W. HUNT, S.R.N., Q.N.  
Mrs. J. E. JERRATT, S.R.N., Q.N. (Senior)  
Miss P. M. PHILLIPS, S.R.N., Q.N.  
Mrs. F. A. PURCHASE, S.R.N.  
Mrs. J. E. RAINSLEY, S.R.N.  
Mr. A. ROTCHELL, S.R.N., Q.N.  
Mrs. N. SPENCE, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N. (from 13/1/54)  
Miss A. M. WILLIS, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N.  
Miss E. WOODS, S.R.N.  
  
Miss I. MORLEY, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N. (Senior) (to 23/1/54)  
Miss B. E. THOMAS, S.R.N., S.C.M., R.S.C.N. (to 11/8/54)

*(b) Part-time*

Miss D. EZZARD, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N. (Part-time Home Nurse and Midwife)  
Mrs. J. MILLICHAMP, S.E.A.N.  
Mrs. M. E. SCOTT, S.E.A.N.

*Domiciliary Midwives:*

Miss M. A. BENNETT, S.C.M.  
Miss F. M. SCAMMELL, S.R.N., S.C.M.  
Miss D. EZZARD, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N. (Part-time Midwife and Home Nurse)

*Senior Health Visitor:*

Miss K. M. AVIS, S.R.N., H.V. Cert., Public Health Nursing Administrative Certificate

*Health Visitors:*

Miss J. C. M. BERK, S.R.N., H.V. Cert.  
Miss E. L. CLARK, S.R.N., H.V. Cert.  
Mrs. W. CLEMENTS, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert.  
Mrs. L. FOSTER, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert.  
Miss E. E. GRIFFIN, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert.  
Miss M. G. HEMMING, S.R.N., H.V. Cert.  
Mrs. S. M. JAMES, S.R.N., H.V. Cert.  
Miss M. J. PARTRIDGE, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert.  
Miss D. J. SPOONER, S.R.C.N., S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert.

*Home Teacher of the Blind:*

Mrs. L. E. HOUNSOM, H.T. Cert.

*Welfare Services Officer and Senior Duly Authorised Officer:*

V. O. F. LITTLE

*Assistant Welfare Officer and Duly Authorised Officer:*

H. A. HURT

*Duly Authorised Officer and Female Mental Health Worker:*

Miss N. G. FULLER

*Clerical Staff:*

A. H. HOOKHAM, F.R.Met.Soc. (Lay Administrative Officer)  
E. TARBUCK (from 18/1/54)  
W. L. PECK  
C. A. HEMSLEY  
Miss G. E. WOODS  
Miss M. S. HARDY  
Miss D. M. BEETLESTONE  
Miss B. WAIGHT  
Mrs. V. HARDY-KING  
D. PATTERSON  
J. MCLEOD (from 1/2/54)  
Miss V. M. RANGER (from 28/6/54)  
  
Mrs. D. STEVENSON (to 30/9/54)  
R. MORLEY (to 3/7/54)

*Dental Attendants:*  
Mrs. D. S. ANDREWS  
Miss D. D. SIDLEY (from 18/1/54)  
  
Miss P. L. KNOX (to 26/1/54)

*Occupation Centre, Salehurst Road*  
Miss D. S. LONES, *Supervisor*

*Princes Park Day Nursery*  
Miss M. J. KENNEDY, *Matron*

*Homes for the Aged*  
*Trevin Towers*  
W. FOWLER, *Superintendent*

*Cavendish Lodge*  
W. H. WHYBROW, *Superintendent*

*Chest Physician*  
A. H. FERGUSON GOW, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.  
(Chest Physician, S.E. Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board)

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*Public Analyst:*  
R. F. WRIGHT, B.Sc. (Lond). A.R.C.S., F.R.I.C.

The duties of the Senior Public Health Officers remained as set out on page 11 of the 1953 Report.

## SECTION A

### GENERAL

Vital Statistics

Notifications of Births

General Information, Natural and Social Conditions

Meteorology

# VITAL STATISTICS

Estimated Mid-Year Population—57,600.

					Male	Female	Total
<b>BIRTHS:</b>							
Live Births—Legitimate				.. ..	300	266	566
Illegitimate				.. ..	25	21	46
					<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
					325	287	612
					<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Still Births—Legitimate				.. ..	4	5	9
Illegitimate				.. ..	2	—	2
					<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
					6	5	11
					<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>DEATHS:</b>							
All causes				.. ..	368	480	848
					<i>Eastbourne</i>	<i>England</i>	<i>and Wales</i>
<b>Birth Rate per 1,000 population:</b>							
Live Births				.. ..	10·63		15·2
Still Births				.. ..	0·19		0·36
<b>Birth Rate after applying "Area Comparability Factor"</b>							
				.. ..	12·11		—
Death Rate (Crude) per 1,000 population				..	14·72		11·3
Death Rate after applying "Area Comparability Factor"				.. ..	9·42		—
Number of Deaths from Tuberculosis				..	7		7069
Tuberculosis Death Rate per 1,000 population				.. ..	0·12		0·16
<b>Maternal Mortality:</b>							
Number of Maternal Deaths				.. ..	—		478
Rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births				..	—		0·69
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age				..	8		—
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age:							
All infants per 1,000 Live Births				..	13·07		25·5
Legitimate infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births				.. ..	14·13		—
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births				.. ..	—		—

## CAUSES OF DEATH

							<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	1	5
Tuberculosis, other	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2
Syphilitic disease	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	—	2
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	7	14
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	..	..	..	..	..	..	17	4	21
Malignant neoplasm, breast	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	13	13
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	7	7
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	..	..	..	..	..	..	42	35	77
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	1	1
Diabetes	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	1	4
Vascular lesions of the nervous system	..	..	..	..	..	..	51	99	150
Coronary disease, angina	..	..	..	..	..	..	71	60	131
Hypertension with heart disease	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	11	21
Other heart disease	..	..	..	..	..	..	55	119	174
Other circulatory disease	..	..	..	..	..	..	13	14	27
Influenza	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	1	1
Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	..	..	14	16	30
Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	13	10	23
Other diseases of the respiratory system	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	4	11
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	6	12
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	4	6
Nephritis and nephrosis	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	6	11
Hyperplasia of prostate	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	—	6
Congenital malformations	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	1	7
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	..	..	..	..	..	..	19	43	62
Motor vehicle accidents	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	3
All other accidents	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	11	16
Suicide	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	3	10
Homicide and operations of war	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	—	1
							<hr/> 368	<hr/> 480	<hr/> 848

## AGE MORTALITY

							<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Under 1	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	2	8
1-5	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
5-15	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	3
15-25	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	3	5
25-45	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	8	15
45-65	..	..	..	..	..	..	79	64	143
65-75	..	..	..	..	..	..	120	115	235
75 and over	..	..	..	..	..	..	153	286	439
							<hr/> 368	<hr/> 480	<hr/> 848



# MATERNAL AND INFANTILE MORTALITY 1894—1953

<i>Years</i>	<i>Total Infant Deaths</i>	<i>Infantile Mortality Rate</i>	<i>Total Maternal Deaths</i>	<i>Maternal Mortality Rate</i>
1894-1903 Average .. ..	108·5	118·2	3·6	4·56
1904-1913 Average .. ..	79·3	96·6	2·6	2·91
1914-1923 Average .. ..	52·3	68·8	1·5	1·93
1924-1933 Average .. ..	30·0	45·7	1·5	2·20
1934-1943 Average .. ..	23·6	42·40	2·1	3·72
1944 .. .. .	11	22·49	1	2·04
1945.. .. .	24	35·98	—	—
1946.. .. .	28	29·04	2	2·00
1947.. .. .	31	31·5	3	2·96
1948.. .. .	21	26·22	—	—
1949.. .. .	16	21·62	2	2·63
1950.. .. .	18	25·67	1	1·39
1951.. .. .	6	9·77	—	—
1952.. .. .	10	15·74	—	—
1953.. .. .	9	16·21	1	1·6
1954.. .. .	8	13·07	—	—

There were eight deaths, six males and two females, of infants under one year:

<i>Age</i>	<i>Sex</i>	<i>Where died</i>	<i>Cause of Death</i>
4 hours	M.	St. Mary's Hospital	I (a) Partial Atelectasis
2 days	M.	St. Mary's Hospital	(b) Prematurity. P.M. I (a) Congenital Heart Disease
2 weeks	M.	Princess Alice Hospital	(b) Patent inter auricular and inter ventricular septa. P.M. I Exposed Spina Bifida
3 weeks	F.	St. Mary's Hospital	I (a) Broncho-pneumonia
3 weeks	M.	Princess Alice Hospital	I Spina Bifida. P.M.
4 months	M.	Princess Alice Hospital	I (a) Hepatitis and Cholaemia (b) Gastro enteritis II Operation for intussusception. P.M.
4 months	M.	Own home	I Asphyxia due to inhalation of vomit following bottle feed. P.M.
6 months	F.	Own home	I Asphyxia due to inhalation of vomit whilst asleep following bottle feed. P.M.

There were no deaths of children aged 1 to 5 years.

## MATERNAL DEATHS

There were no maternal deaths.

## DEATHS FROM CANCER

The following table shows the number of deaths and death rates from cancer from 1939 to 1954:

	Year	Popula- tion	Age Groups						Total Deaths	Death Rate per 1,000
			0- 1	1- 5	5- 15	15- 45	45- 65	65 over		
Ten Years	1939	59,470	—	—	1	12	69	30	112	1·88
	1940	53,760	—	1	—	4	37	53	95	1·76
	1941	27,570	—	—	—	1	24	48	73	2·64
	1942	30,960	—	—	—	4	30	48	82	2·68
	1943	27,380	—	—	—	3	29	52	84	3·06
	1944	27,980	—	—	—	2	26	67	95	3·43
	1945	39,300	—	1	—	6	43	79	129	3·28
	1946	49,790	—	—	—	4	54	68	126	2·53
	1947	53,540	—	—	—	7	31	87	125	2·33
	1948	56,610	—	1	1	5	35	92	134	2·36
	Total	—	—	3	2	48	378	624	1055	—
Six Years	1949	56,880	—	—	—	9	40	79	128	2·25
	1950	58,050	—	—	—	9	54	100	163	2·80
	1951	57,510	—	—	1	4	46	77	128	2·22
	1952	57,200	—	—	—	4	46	94	144	2·51
	1953	57,190	—	—	1	8	55	85	149	2·61
	1954	57,600	—	—	—	4	33	96	133	2·30
TOTAL	—	—	—	—	2	38	274	531	845	—

## NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS

Nine hundred and forty nine live births and nineteen still births took place in the Borough and were notified to the Local Authority. Six hundred live births and ten still births were to mothers resident in Eastbourne and three hundred and forty-nine live births and nine still births were to mothers resident outside the Borough. There were four inward transfers of live births relating to Eastbourne mothers confined elsewhere than in Eastbourne.

Notifications were as follows:

### (a) DOMICILIARY LIVE BIRTHS:

					Residents	Non-Residents	Total
Local Health Authority Midwives	..	..	..	..	107	1	108
Private Midwife	..	..	..	..	1	—	1
General Practitioner	..	..	..	..	1	—	1
					109	1	110

### (b) INSTITUTIONAL LIVE BIRTHS:

Maternity Home	..	..	..	..	415	140	555
St. Mary's Hospital	..	..	..	..	71	204	275
Nursing Homes	..	..	..	..	5	4	9
					491	348	839
Inward Transfers..	..	..	..	..	4	—	4
Total Live Births..	..	..	..	..	604	349	953

### (c) STILL BIRTHS:

Domiciliary	..	..	..	..	1	—	1
Institutional	..	..	..	..	9	9	18
					10	9	19

(d) PREMATURE LIVE BIRTHS (i.e. 5½ lb. or less at birth)

Domiciliary	..	..	..	..	8	—	8
Maternity Home	..	..	..	..	26	9	35
St. Mary's Hospital	..	..	..	..	7	12	19
Inward Transfer	..	..	..	..	1	—	1
					<hr/> 42	<hr/> 21	<hr/> 63

Notified Live Births:

1953	..	..	..	..	..	632	313	945
1952	..	..	..	..	..	623	288	911
1951	..	..	..	..	..	609	245	854

## GENERAL INFORMATION, NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

SITUATION. Latitude 50° 46' N.; Longitude 0° 17' E.

Eastbourne is situated on and at the foot of the eastern slope of the South Downs facing the English Channel with an open exposure to the South and South-East.

### ELEVATION

The highest point is about 640 feet above sea level on the Downs sloping from the west to a minimum of 6.58 feet above highest mean sea level in the east of the Borough.

### AREA

The acreage of the Borough is 11,356 acres including foreshore (332 acres) and inland water (19 acres).

### DENSITY OF POPULATION

Approximately 5 persons per acre. The parts built over vary with locality from 10 to 50 with an average of about 20 persons per acre.

NUMBER OF SEPARATE ASSESSMENTS. 20,361.

RATEABLE VALUE AT 1.4.54. £973,104.

GENERAL RATE. 15s. 0d.

PRODUCT OF A 1d. RATE. 1954/55. £3,954.

METEOROLOGY. 60 Years Averages.

<i>Temperature:</i>	Max.	55.9° F.
	Min.	45.5° F.
	Mean	50.7° F.
	Sea	51.9° F.
<i>Sunshine:</i>	Total	1811.9 hours
	Daily	4.96 hours
<i>Rainfall:</i>	Total	31.25 inches
	Days	165

### NATURAL FEATURES:

The Borough is sheltered from the west and south-west by the Downs. The front is open to the sea to the south and south-east. This factor ensures a very large amount of sunshine as is shown by the records extending over a considerable number of years.

The extent of the Borough compared with the number of houses and population provides for large open spaces and gardens conducive to health.

In accordance with a Local Act of 1936 the Corporation obtained by agreement lands forming part of the Downs in the neighbourhood of the Borough. The whole of the Downs on the west is open country and mainly accessible to the public.

## GEOLOGY

A large part of Eastbourne is on a chalk subsoil which is a very healthy subsoil. The western part of the town including Meads, Old Town and Upperton is almost entirely on chalk. The central and eastern districts are mainly on dry alluvium or shingle and to a small extent on chalk and greensand. Valley gravel covers the chalk and greensand in the valleys.

There is a comparatively small amount of clay in the central part of the town and a strip of upper greensand narrow along the Grand Parade, wider from west to east to about Bourne Street, narrowing again until it ends about half a mile east of the pier. The remainder of Eastbourne to the east is on alluvium. Hampden Park to the north-west is on greensand and clay just at the termination of the chalk.

## GENERAL

The climate is invigorating and has a tonic effect. The winter sunshine records are among the highest in the country and the daily range in temperature small. The average night temperature from December to February is higher than that of the French and Italian Riviera and the daily variation in temperature less.

The dry soil, sunshine and bracing air combined with the many amenities make Eastbourne a particularly favourable health and holiday resort.

## VISITORS TO EASTBOURNE

Numerous requests are received from potential visitors and would be residents for information regarding nursing and convalescent homes and climatic conditions.

The services of all sections of the department remained at the disposal of visitors.

Visitors with young children were especially welcomed at the child welfare centres and given any necessary advice to facilitate the enjoyment of their holidays. Considerable quantities of welfare foods were also taken up by visitors.

In the absence of any co-ordinating authority for the various services provided under the National Health Service Act the department continued to act as an information bureau on all such matters including the services provided by the Hospital Management Committee and Executive Council.

Reference should also be made to the vigilance of the Sanitary Inspectors in their work behind the scenes in connection with the supervision of the many catering establishments serving visitors.

## METEOROLOGY

*Borough Meteorologist:* Mr. A. H. HOOKHAM, F.R.Met.Soc.

## SUNSHINE

Although the summer of 1954 was one of the worst on record, Eastbourne registered 1661·5 hours of sunshine, which was the tenth highest total in the Air Ministry official list of 327 stations. This total was our lowest since 1936. In fact none of the summer months reached average. The months of January, April and November were the only ones to be above.

The positions of the Resorts in Southern districts in the Air Ministry's list were:

<i>Position in List</i>	<i>Town</i>	<i>Total Hours</i>
1	Shanklin .. .. .	1779·2
2	Weymouth .. .. .	1709·0
3	Sandown .. .. .	1701·3
4	Ventnor .. .. .	1698·1
5	Exmouth .. .. .	1689·1
6	Worthing .. .. .	1687·3
7	Poole .. .. .	1676·9
8	Torquay .. .. .	1675·9
9	Scilly .. .. .	1665·4
10	<b>Eastbourne</b> .. .. .	<b>1661·5</b>
12	Swanage .. .. .	1654·8
13	Freshwater .. .. .	1654·0
14	Penzance .. .. .	1651·6
15	Lizard .. .. .	1624·0
16	Bournemouth .. .. .	1622·2
17	Ryde .. .. .	1617·8
20	Teignmouth .. .. .	1614·9
21	Seaford .. .. .	1608·1
23	Brighton .. .. .	1599·2
24	Hastings .. .. .	1597·8
27	Paignton .. .. .	1593·9
28	Bognor .. .. .	1591·1
29	Littlehampton .. .. .	1583·8
30	Margate .. .. .	1579·3
31	Falmouth .. .. .	1578·4
32	Bexhill-on-Sea .. .. .	1570·2
33	Broadstairs .. .. .	1569·8
36	Portsmouth .. .. .	1553·8
39	Ramsgate .. .. .	1543·4
42	Folkestone .. .. .	1523·4
45	Lowestoft .. .. .	1516·5
46	Dover .. .. .	1515·5
56	Newquay .. .. .	1483·4
66	Plymouth .. .. .	1467·9
69	Ilfracombe .. .. .	1462·4
78	Bude .. .. .	1437·9

#### TEMPERATURE

The average day temperatures of March, April, May and December and the night temperatures of March, May and September to December were above the respective averages.

#### RAINFALL

Eight months provided rainfall in excess of the normal and only January April, October and December were below. During the first half of the year 12·31 inches only was registered but in the second half of the year the measurement was 24·8 inches.



# SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS

## AIR PRESSURE (Mean Sea Level):

### *Daily Average*

9 a.m. .. .. .	29·966 inches (1014·7 millibars)
9 p.m. .. .. .	29·968 inches (1014·8 millibars)

### *Daily Averages*

## AIR TEMPERATURE:

Maximum .. .. .	55·5 degrees
Minimum .. .. .	45·6 degrees
Combined .. .. .	50·6 degrees
Range .. .. .	9·9 degrees
At 9 a.m. .. .. .	51·1 degrees
At 9 p.m. .. .. .	51 degrees
Warmest Day—August 4th .. .. .	75 degrees
Warmest nights—August 2nd and 4th, September 2nd and 3rd	61 degrees
Coldest Day—February 1st .. .. .	27 degrees
Coldest Nights—January 28th and February 1st .. .. .	19 degrees

## EARTH TEMPERATURES:

### *Daily Averages:*

At 1 foot .. .. .	52·6 degrees
At 4 feet .. .. .	53·7 degrees

## SUNSHINE:

Total .. .. .	1661·5 hours
Daily Average .. .. .	4·55 hours

## RAINFALL:

Total .. .. .	37·12 inches
“Rain” Days .. .. .	178

## HUMIDITY:

### *Daily Averages:*

9 a.m. .. .. .	85 per cent.
9 p.m. .. .. .	88 per cent.

## WINDS:

Percentage of 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. observations.

### *Direction*

### *Percentage*

N. .. .. .	11·31
N.E. .. .. .	6·16
E. .. .. .	5·62
S.E. .. .. .	4·38
S. .. .. .	7·83
S.W. .. .. .	9·45
W. .. .. .	36·44
N.W. .. .. .	15·21
Calm .. .. .	3·60

### *Prevailing Winds*

Snow and sleet recorded on .. .. .	6 days
Thunderstorms recorded on .. .. .	4 days
Fog (9 a.m.) recorded on .. .. .	2 days
Gales recorded on .. .. .	10 days
Ground frost recorded during .. .. .	45 nights

# MONTHLY AVERAGES 1954

Month	Air Temperature					Mean Sea Tem- pera- ture	Sunshine		Rainfall	
	Means of			High- est	Low- est		Total Hours	Daily Hours	Inches	'Rain' Days
	Maxi- mum	Mini- mum	Max. and Min. Com- bined							
January ..	42.2	34.9	38.6	53	19	40.9	82.8	2.67	1.45	11
February ..	42.1	34.8	38.5	50	19	37.6	52.1	1.86	3.00	17
March ..	48.8	40.5	44.7	55	30	43.8	122.8	3.96	3.57	14
April ..	53.2	38.9	46.1	59	32	47.3	228.5	7.62	0.53	7
May ..	60.3	48.0	54.1	74	38	52.3	203.3	6.56	1.88	12
June ..	62.0	51.9	56.9	69	47	57.6	190.6	6.35	1.88	14
July ..	63.7	54.2	58.9	72	47	60.4	187.7	6.05	4.48	15
August ..	65.9	55.3	60.6	75	48	61.7	199.6	6.44	4.09	11
September ..	63.0	53.2	58.1	71	42	60.6	158.9	5.30	3.97	25
October ..	60.7	51.0	55.9	66	34	57.1	108.0	3.48	3.48	18
November ..	53.6	43.0	48.3	62	31	52.1	73.4	2.45	6.20	18
December ..	50.5	42.1	46.3	56	31	48.0	53.8	1.74	2.59	16
YEAR ..	55.5	45.6	50.6	75 Aug.	19 Feb.	51.6	1661.5	4.55	37.12	178

AVERAGES: 60 Years: 1888 to 1941 and 1947 to 1952.

Month				Air Temperature			Mean Sea Tem- pera- ture	Sunshine		Rainfall	
				Means of				Total Hours	Daily Hours	Inches	'Rain' Days
				Maxi- mum	Mini- mum	Max. and Min. Com- bined					
January	..	..	..	45.2	37.2	41.2	42.4	62.0	2.00	2.91	17
February	..	..	..	45.4	36.5	41.0	41.2	83.7	2.99	2.29	14
March	..	..	..	48.2	38.1	43.1	42.8	137.0	4.42	2.26	14
April	..	..	..	52.9	41.4	47.1	46.8	179.1	5.87	1.97	13
May	..	..	..	59.0	46.9	53.0	52.8	234.9	7.58	1.64	11
June	..	..	..	64.1	52.2	58.1	58.6	238.0	7.93	1.77	10
July	..	..	..	67.2	55.9	61.6	62.5	236.3	7.62	2.20	11
August	..	..	..	67.6	56.3	61.9	63.7	218.7	7.05	2.56	13
September	..	..	..	64.7	52.9	58.8	61.2	173.6	5.79	2.40	12
October	..	..	..	58.0	47.2	52.6	55.7	212.4	3.92	3.91	16
November	..	..	..	51.3	41.9	46.6	49.8	72.2	2.41	3.84	16
December	..	..	..	46.9	38.6	42.8	45.2	54.2	1.75	3.45	18
YEAR	..	..	..	55.9	45.5	50.7	51.9	1811.1	4.96	31.25	165

## SECTION B

### NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT (LOCAL HEALTH SERVICES)

- Section 22—Care of Mothers and Young Children  
 „ 23—Midwifery  
 „ 24—Health Visiting  
 „ 25—Home Nursing  
 „ 26—Vaccination and Immunisation  
 „ 27—Ambulance Service  
 „ 28—Prevention of Illness, Care and After Care  
 „ 29—Domestic Help  
 „ 51—Mental Health



## HEALTH SERVICES STATISTICS

The total gross expenditure on the Health Services during the financial year ended 31st March, 1954, was £58,345 towards which an exchequer grant of £24,493 was received. After deducting other income the net rate borne expenditure was £25,656 representing £448 8s. 0d. per 1,000 population compared with an average expenditure of £427 per 1,000 population for all County Boroughs.

Expenditure on individual services is given in the appropriate sections of the report. The figures of expenditure have been obtained from the Borough Treasurer's Abstract of Account and the unit costs from the Return of Local Health Services Statistics 1953/54 published by the Institute of Municipal Treasurers and Accountants (Incorporated).

### SECTION 22

#### CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

Gross expenditure on this section of the Authority's Health Services amounted to £13,715 16s. 9d. during the last financial year. Of this sum, £3,052 15s. 8d. was spent on Child Welfare Centres and Ante and Post Natal Clinics; £1,455 13s. 9d. on dental treatment of nursing, expectant mothers and young children and £8,869 5s. 2d. on Day Nurseries.

##### EXPECTANT AND NURSING MOTHERS

###### 1. *Ante-Natal Care*

There is perhaps no more important work than in the care of the expectant mother. Whilst the actual confinement may be regarded as the focal point of the business of producing and nurturing an infant, it is now being more and more realised that, far from being a painful and exhausting episode to be remembered by the mother with some horror, it can, with adequate understanding and instruction of the mother in such matters as peace of mind, relaxation, and nutrition, be relatively quick and indeed pleasureable.

In Eastbourne a mother may have her baby in one of the following ways:

1. At Home attended by a Midwife
2. At home attended by a General Practitioner and assisted by a Midwife
3. In hospital attended by a Midwife
4. In hospital or nursing home attended by a General Practitioner
5. In hospital or nursing home attended by a Consultant Obstetrician.

The choice is to some extent up to the patient. In other cases she has to take the service deemed appropriate for her. It is often by no means clear until a late date whether her confinement will be the responsibility of the Hospital Management Committee, the General Prac-

tioner service, or the Local Health Authority. Each of these services offer adequate facilities for the usual clinical ante-natal examinations, but I am by no means happy in view of the divided responsibilities mentioned above that every mother receives the health education and instruction which has been proved to be so important in making childbirth the natural business it ought to be. I look forward to a pooling of resources between the three responsible authorities in the best interests of the expectant and nursing mother.

(a) *Clinics.*

Ante-Natal Clinics for domiciliary cases were provided at the Local Authority's Central Clinic and at one district clinic. One district clinic formerly held at Acacia Villa was discontinued on 26th May.

*Sessions and attendances were as follows:*

						<i>Sessions</i>	<i>Attendances</i>
Avenue House (Thursdays 2.30 p.m.)	..	..	..	..	..	51	398
Hampden Park Hall (Tuesdays 2.30 p.m.)	..	..	..	..	..	52	252
Acacia Villa (to 26th May)	..	..	..	..	..	21	91
TOTALS	..	..	..	..	..	124	741
Number of mothers attending	..	..	..	..	..	..	139
Number of new cases	..	..	..	..	..	..	91
Number of cases examined by Assistant Medical Officer	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Number of specimens of blood taken for Rh. Factor	..	..	..	..	..	..	80
Number accepting invitation to attend Local Authority's Dental Centre	..	..	..	..	..	..	28
Number referred for X-ray	..	..	..	..	..	..	1

(b) *Domiciliary Visits:*

Ante-Natal visits to mothers in their own homes .. .. 946

2. *Post-Natal Care.*

A post natal clinic was held at Avenue House on Thursday afternoons in conjunction with the Ante-Natal Clinic. Three women made five attendances.

*Domiciliary Visits*

(a) To mothers confined at home	..	..	..	..	..	..	116
(b) To mothers confined in hospitals and discharged before the 14th day	..	..	..	..	..	..	130

3. *Home Visiting*

Visits by Health Visitors during the year were as follows:

				<i>First Visits</i>	<i>Total Visits</i>
To expectant mothers	..	..	..	244	354
To children under 1 year of age	..	..	..	609	4255
To children between the ages of 1 and 2 years	..	..	..	—	2568
To children between the ages of 2 and 5 years	..	..	..	—	4579

4. *Child Welfare Clinics were held as follows:*

Avenue House	..	..	..	Monday afternoon and Thursday morning
Acacia Villa, Seaside	..	..	..	Tuesday afternoon
120-122 Green Street	..	..	..	Wednesday afternoon
Hampden Park Hall	..	..	..	Friday afternoon

Attendances were:

		<i>Aged</i>	<i>Aged</i>	<i>Aged</i>	<i>Total</i>
		<i>Under 1</i>	<i>1-2</i>	<i>2-5</i>	
Number of children who attended during the year	..	409	379	499	1287
Number of attendances made by children	..	6747	1272	1006	9025

Excluding administrative expenditure, the cost per attendance at Child Welfare Centres was 7s. 11d. compared with an average of 5s. 4d. for all County Boroughs during the year ended 31st March, 1954.

### 5. Care of Premature Infants (i.e. babies weighing 5½lb. or less at birth irrespective of period of gestation).

Equipment is provided by the Department for the care of premature infants born at home and very satisfactory provision is available in the hospitals.

#### (a) Number of premature live births notified:

Place of Birth	Resident	Non-Resident	Total
Own Home .. .. .	8	—	8
Maternity Home .. .. .	26	9	35
St. Mary's Hospital .. .. .	7	12	19
Inward Transfer .. .. .	1	—	1
	<u>42</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>63</u>

#### (b) Deaths of Premature Infants within 28 days:

	Resident	Non-Resident	Total
(i) Died in first 24 hours:			
St. Mary's .. .. .	1	1*	2
Maternity Home .. .. .	—	1	1
(ii) Died within 1-28 days:			
St. Mary's Hospital .. .. .	—	1	1
Princess Alice Hospital .. .. .	1	—	1
	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>

\* Admitted to hospital after Birth

### 6. Unmarried Mothers

Under the Authority's scheme for the welfare of unmarried mothers and their children full use was made of the services of the welfare workers and the Homes provided by the Chichester Diocesan Moral Welfare Association. All cases were fully investigated by the staff of the Department in association with the voluntary welfare workers and close contact was maintained with the girls concerned.

On discharge from Maternity Units and Post Natal Hostels all possible help was given to them.

*House of the Good Shepherd.* This home has accommodation for six single girls, including expectant mothers in need of care and supervision.

Twenty-four expectant mothers including one Eastbourne case accommodated for 26 days were admitted during the year.

*Bell Hostel.* This Hostel has 16 beds for accommodating unmarried mothers and their babies. There were forty admissions during the year including one Eastbourne girl. Thirty-one were admitted ante-natally and nine post-natally.

*Other Homes.* Six Eastbourne girls were accommodated in the following homes:

Methodist Home, Streatham .. .. .	1
Church Army Home, Tulse Hill .. .. .	1
St. Anne's Mother and Baby Home, Streatham .. .. .	1
St. Pelagia's Mother and Baby Home, Streatham .. .. .	2
Ravenbourne House, Bromley .. .. .	1

In the last financial year the sum of £328 19s. 0d. was spent in grants and subscriptions and maintenance in homes for these girls.

Nineteen other unmarried mothers brought to the notice of the Department were confined at:

Maternity Home .. .. .	10
St. Mary's Hospital .. .. .	6
Nursing Home .. .. .	2
Own Home .. .. .	1

### 7. Welfare Foods, etc.

As from June 28th the distribution of Welfare Foods became the responsibility of local health authorities.

Arrangements were made for the Local Authority's Welfare Clinic at Avenue House to be the main centre for distribution of Welfare Foods daily and for the three outlying Infant Welfare Centres to be used as subsidiary distribution centres at the normal clinic sessions there.

These arrangements have worked very smoothly indeed and the public appear to have been well satisfied with the service offered.

Every effort was made to encourage the highest possible take up of the Vitamin supplements. With regard to National Dried Milk the encouragement of breast feeding continues to be the policy of the department.

Under the Authority's arrangements for the care of mothers and young children, a considerable variety of dried milk foods, cereals and vitamin products are now available. These are issued on the recommendation of the Medical Officer or Health Visitor in attendance at the Child Welfare Sessions.

The smooth running and successful working of both these arrangements was aided considerably by the assistance rendered and willing co-operation of the members of the Women's Voluntary Service which has been much appreciated.

#### 8. Dental Care

The services provide for the dental care of expectant and nursing mothers and pre-school children.

Owing to the resignation of Miss Jean D. Oswald, Dental Officer, on October 31st, only five weekly sessions were available during November and December by the employment of a locum tencens.

#### DENTAL TREATMENT RETURN

##### A. NUMBERS PROVIDED WITH DENTAL CARE:

	<i>Examined</i>	<i>Needing Treatment</i>	<i>Treated</i>	<i>Made Dentally Fit</i>
Expectant and Nursing Mothers .. .. .	188	187	178	150
Children under Five ..	290	216	216	210

##### B. FORMS OF DENTAL TREATMENT PROVIDED:

	<i>Scalings and Gum Treat-</i>	<i>Fillings</i>	<i>Silver Nitrate Treatment</i>	<i>Crowns or Inlays</i>	<i>Extractions</i>	<i>General Anaesthetics</i>	<i>Dentures Provided</i>		<i>Radio-graphs</i>
							<i>Full Upper or Lower</i>	<i>Partial Upper or Lower</i>	
Expectant and Nursing Mothers	101	283	10	—	189	46	11	32	27
Children under Five	1	235	501	—	267	122	—	—	1



## REPORT OF THE CHIEF DENTAL OFFICER

One hundred and fifty sessions were devoted to the inspection and treatment of expectant and nursing mothers and to children under the age of five. One hundred and eighty-eight expectant and nursing mothers were seen at the Avenue House clinic and made 764 attendances. Of these, 187 were found to require treatment and 178 were treated.

Two hundred and eighty-three fillings were inserted, and 189 teeth extracted. In addition, 11 complete dentures and 32 partial dentures were fitted, the laboratory work being carried out by local technicians in their own laboratories. Twenty-seven cases were referred for radiological examination to the radiological department at St. Mary's Hospital where, as in previous years, this work was carried out very satisfactorily.

Two hundred and ninety children under school age were inspected, and 216 were found to require treatment. All these 216 were actually treated and made 594 attendances. Two hundred and thirty-five fillings were inserted into temporary teeth and 267 temporary teeth were extracted. A general anaesthetic was administered on 122 occasions for these extractions, the anaesthetic used being either nitrous oxide and oxygen from a Walton apparatus, or Vinesthene (vinyl ether) from an Oxford inhaler. The use of Vinsthene is a recent innovation at this clinic, and is proving of the greatest value in dealing with cases not easily induced with nitrous oxide.

Five hundred and one temporary teeth also received conservative treatment with silver nitrate. This use of an ammoniacal solution of silver nitrate, followed with precipitation by eugenol, has proved of great benefit in the treatment of self-cleansing surfaces already carious, but unfortunately is of doubtful value when used as a preventive on sound enamel. What is really required is a substance which will give, on topical application, an added protection to sound enamel, and here I feel we must base our hopes for the future on the present active research being carried out into enzymatic chemistry. The introduction of a suitable enzyme inhibitor which would reduce, without any undesirable side effects, the acid formation from the breakdown of carbohydrates, would prove of inestimable value, particularly in the approach to the problem of the very young child.

The building up of a tooth structure more resistant to caries is another aspect of this problem of prevention. It is here extremely gratifying to learn that in three widely separated areas of the country, experiments are now being carried out on the effects of the fluoridation of domestic water supplies on the formation of the teeth. Some years must elapse before any conclusive information is available on this work, since the essential principle involved is the incorporation of fluorine salts into the tooth structure during its period of formation.

Meanwhile, in combating the dental caries of the young child, we must continue to rely on the encouragement by all means, of a high level of oral hygiene, the consumption of a suitable diet, and regular dental inspection. To be successful, conservative work on the temporary dentition must be carried out in the early stages of caries, and these early stages can only be discovered by regular routine inspection.

M. G. BERRY, L.D.S., R.C.S.

## 9. DAY NURSERIES

Two Day Nurseries providing a total of 100 places were in use at the beginning of the year. Owing to a continued decline in attendance at both nurseries since 1952 the Salehurst Road Day Nursery was closed with effect from the 31st March, 1954.

There was no waiting list for admission during the year. After February there was a gradual increase in attendances. From June onwards these were in excess for each month compared with the previous year.

The average daily attendance of children was as follows:

				<i>Salehurst Road</i> <i>Day Nursery</i> (40 places)		<i>Princes Park</i> <i>Day Nursery</i> (60 places)	
				1954	1953	1954	1953
January	..	..	..	15.83	21.42	19.49	35.84
February	..	..	..	15.51	21.65	15.04	27.83
March	..	..	..	11.33	25.26	21.74	28.36
April	..	..	..	—	—	29.95	39.53
May	..	..	..	—	—	38.12	41.64
June	..	..	..	—	—	45.04	42.92
July	..	..	..	—	—	47.74	42.14
August	..	..	..	—	—	47.72	33.80
September	..	..	..	—	—	40.62	34.37
October	..	..	..	—	—	33.81	28.10
November	..	..	..	—	—	33.88	23.52
December	..	..	..	—	—	31.84	18.56

The income for the year was £2,111 compared with £1,777 in the previous year, an increase of £334 or 19 per cent.

The unit costs per approved place of £88 8s. 0d. and per child in attendance of £162 16s. 0d. for the year ended 31st March, 1954, confirmed that the fullest use was not being made of the facilities available.

The cost per child in attendance compares favourably with the average for all County Boroughs of £165 18s. 0d. during the same period.

## SECTION 23—MIDWIVES SERVICE

The Superintendent of the Home Nursing Service is also the Non-Medical Supervisor of Midwives.

Under her general supervision the two domiciliary midwives continued their work whole-time, with the assistance of one midwife whose services were employed part-time in this service and part-time in the Home Nursing Service.

The domiciliary confinements showed a slight increase in number and proportion.

The following figures show the total number of live births to Eastbourne mothers and the number and proportion of domiciliary confinements in the last five years:

			<i>Total Births</i>	<i>Domiciliary Confinements</i>	<i>Percentage of Domiciliary Confinements</i>
1950	..	..	709	157	22·1
1951	..	..	609	115	18·8
1952	..	..	623	106	17·0
1953	..	..	632	102	16·1
1954	..	..	604	109	18·0

The number of institutional confinements was again in excess of 80 per cent. of the total births.

Social investigations regarding suitability for home confinement were continued during the year on behalf of the Hospital Management Committee but appear to have been largely a waste of time since the majority of mothers for whom home conditions were reported suitable ultimately found their way into hospital or maternity home to have their babies.

Details of the work of the Domiciliary Midwives during the year are as follows:

BOOKINGS:								
	Number of cases on books on January 1st	..	..	..	..	..	..	48
	New bookings	..	..	..	..	..	..	121
	Number of cases on books on December 31st	..	..	..	..	..	..	40
CONFINEMENTS:								
(a) Doctor booked:								
	Doctor present	..	..	..	..	..	..	43
	Doctor not present	..	..	..	..	..	..	25
(b) Doctor not booked:								
	Doctor present	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
	Doctor not present	..	..	..	..	..	..	34
								109
	(c) Miscarriages	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
ANALGESIA:								
(a) Gas and Air:								
	Doctor present	..	..	..	..	..	..	43
	Doctor not present	..	..	..	..	..	..	56
								99
(b) Pethidine:								
	Doctor present	..	..	..	..	..	..	26
	Doctor not present	..	..	..	..	..	..	31
								57



Medical Aid was sought in 15 cases.

VISITS BY MIDWIVES:

Ante-Natal visits .. .. .	946
Visits during labour .. .. .	240
Visits during puerperium .. .. .	2108
Post natal visits (domiciliary cases) .. .. .	116
Visits to 50 cases discharged from hospital before the 14th day ..	130

3540

SUPERVISION:

Visits of inspection by Non-Medical Supervisor to Domiciliary Midwives and Pupil Midwives.. .. .	6
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TRAINING OF PUPIL MIDWIVES:

Four pupil midwives from the East Sussex County Council were accepted for three months district training.

The Authority's expenditure on this service during 1953-54 was £2,398 18s. 1d. which, after excluding administrative expenses, represented a cost of £40 14s. 0d. per 1,000 population, as compared with the average cost of £87 12s. 0d. for all County Boroughs.

The cost per case attended was £16 5s. 0d. as compared with £13 0s. 0d for all County Boroughs.

## SECTION 24—HEALTH VISITING

There were no changes in the Health Visiting staff during the year which comprised ten qualified Health Visitors, including the Senior Health Visitor. The establishment for the purposes of the National Health Service Act remained at seven and a half, the equivalent of two and half Health Visitors being allocated to the School Health Service.

The liaison between the Hospitals and Health Visiting staff was implemented by the attendance of a health visitor in paediatric ward rounds and at out-patient clinics to provide the hospital staffs with a knowledge of child patients' social background. Also to advise on local authority and voluntary services available to patients on discharge.

An arrangement was also made whereby health visitors see each mother in the Maternity Home before discharge, again to advise mothers of the services available to their babies and themselves.

The services of one health visitor continued to be available for work in connection with the Hospital Geriatric Service and the Tuberculosis Health Visitor maintained the closest contact with the Chest Physician.

An increase in the contact between general practitioners and health visitors was noticeable, particularly in the case of old folk needing care and attention. This is taken as an indication that general practitioners are appreciating more and more the value of the health visitor in connection with medico-social problems affecting their patients.

It is of interest to note that the district clinics were used to a much greater degree by members of the public seeking advice on varied health and welfare problems. This development is a welcome sign that the public are identifying the health visitor as a family worker as distinct from being purely an advisor on mother and infant care.

During the year three Student Health Visitors received practical training in the department by arrangement with the Tutor to the Health Visitors' Course at the Brighton Technical College and groups of students from Teachers Training Colleges and various voluntary organisations were instructed in the work of the health and welfare services.

## SUMMARY OF THE WORK BY HEALTH VISITORS

### HOME VISITS

CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN						
Children under 1 year	..	..	..	..	..	4255
Children aged 1 and under 2 years	..	..	..	..	..	2568
Children aged 2 but under 5 years	..	..	..	..	..	4579
Expectant Mothers	..	..	..	..	..	354
In connection with Day Nurseries	..	..	..	..	..	11
INFECTIOUS ILLNESS	..	..	..	..	..	111
TUBERCULOSIS	..	..	..	..	..	1165
CARE AND AFTER CARE (including Aged and Handicapped Persons)						1247

### OTHER VISITS:

To Other Agencies (voluntary organisations)	..	..	..	..	..	240
To Day Nurseries	..	..	..	..	..	79
To Hospitals	..	..	..	..	..	257
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	..	459

### CLINIC ATTENDANCES:

Child Welfare Centres	..	..	..	..	..	436
Immunisation and Vaccination Clinics	..	..	..	..	..	46
Health Education Sessions	..	..	..	..	..	154
Chest Clinic	..	..	..	..	..	97

Financial statistics for the latest period for which figures are available show that the sum of £4,110 6s. 1d. was spent on this service in the year ended 31st March, 1954.

The net cost per 1,000 population was £71 3s. 0d compared with the average for all County Boroughs of £61 2s. 0d. and the cost per visit 6s. 1d. and 4s. 8d. respectively.

## SECTION 25—HOME NURSING

This service is playing a very important part in the social welfare of the Borough as well as relieving the heavy pressure on the use of hospital beds. It ensures that all persons needing nursing care in their own homes receive attention from trained and certificated nurses.

The duties are very wide and embrace all types of nursing under varying conditions. The work also includes acute and chronic medical and surgical cases, also tuberculosis and other infectious diseases. Eastbourne as a health resort has a large number of aged persons and in consequence the largest percentage of the nursing work is amongst the aged and chronic sick.

At the end of the year the Home Nursing Staff consisted of a Superintendent who is also the Non-Medical Supervisor of Midwives, a Senior Home Nurse, thirteen whole-time trained nurses (including two male nurses) one part-time Home Nurse whose duties are shared between this and the Midwives Service and two part-time State Enrolled Assistant Nurses. The two male

nurses continued to prove invaluable in their special field. It was possible to maintain a high standard of service throughout the year. A large proportion of the Home Nursing staff are members of the Queens Institute of District Nursing which body is responsible for the recruitment and training of hospital trained staff in the adaptation of methods and technique to the varying circumstances met with in the homes of patients.

In spite of the many difficulties to be faced with in this branch of nursing the staff carried out their duties in a cheerful and willing manner. The many letters of appreciation from patients and their relatives are a testimony of the value and importance of the Home Nursing Service.

The number of visits made, viz. 49,533 was in excess of the previous year whereas the number of patients, 1,671, was slightly lower (1,719).

The following are particulars of cases nursed:

						<i>New Cases</i>	<i>Total Cases</i>	<i>Visits</i>
Medical	..	..	..	..	..	766	827	14,885
Surgical	..	..	..	..	..	230	259	6,693
Infectious Diseases	..	..	..	..	..	6	6	63
Tuberculosis	..	..	..	..	..	36	43	1,088
Maternal Complications	..	..	..	..	..	5	5	28
Others—Chronic	..	..	..	..	..	305	531	26,776
						<u>1,348</u>	<u>1,671</u>	<u>49,533</u>

Patients were removed from the records on cessation of nursing attendance as follows:

Convalescent	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	652
To Hospital	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	231
Deaths	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	121
Other Causes	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	298
								<u>1,302</u>

The demand on the Home Nursing Service as compared with previous years is shown in the table below:

								<i>Cases</i>	<i>Visits</i>
1949	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,323	34,914
1950	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,667	47,898
1951	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,552	47,047
1952	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,967	47,470
1953	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,719	49,404
1954	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,671	49,533

The heavy cost of the Home Nursing Service is reflected in financial statistics issued for the year ended 31st March, 1954, for which period the Authority's gross expenditure amounted to £11,256 4s. 1d. The net cost per 1,000 population was £189 14s. 0d. or 21·63 per cent. of the total net expenditure on all Health Services. The comparable figures for all County Boroughs were £96 7s. 0d. per 1,000 population and 11·42 per cent.

## SECTION 26—VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

### A.—VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX

The results of the campaign for vaccination of infants before the first birthday are reflected in the statistics printed in the following table. The total vaccinations of infants under 1 year of age is, except for the year 1951 when results were influenced by an outbreak in a neighbouring town, the highest ever recorded. Personal persuasion of parents and guardians by the staff of the department and family doctors is the most powerful element in the campaign which is carried on unceasingly.

#### VACCINATION DURING 1954

Age Group	Primary Vaccination		Re-Vaccination	
	By Staff of Health Department	By General Practitioner	By Staff of Health Department	By General Practitioner
Under 1 year .. ..	169	178	—	—
1 to 2 years .. ..	13	7	—	—
2 to 5 years .. ..	4	9	1	10
5 to 15 years .. ..	—	11	15	45
15 years and over ..	—	19	1	184
	186	224	17	239
	410		256	
	666			

From this table it will be seen that three hundred and forty-seven infants under one year were vaccinated, one hundred and sixty-nine by the Medical Staff of the Department and one hundred and seventy-eight by General Medical Practitioners.

Expressed as a percentage of the average number of live births registered during 1953 and 1954 this figure indicates that approximately 56 per cent. of babies were vaccinated in the first year of life, an increase of 5 per cent. over the figure for 1953.

### B.—DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

The number of children immunised in the age groups 0-1 year and 1-2 years was equivalent to 77·9 per cent. of the children (617) born in the previous year.

Since the campaign started in 1939 the number of children known to have been immunised in the age groups 0-1 year and 1-2 years was:

Year	Births	No. immunised in age groups 0-1 year and 1-2 years	Percentage of previous years' births immunised
1954	612	481	77·9
1953	617	342	53·9
1952	635	394	64·2
1951	614	463	66·0
1950	701	467	63·1
1949	740	446	55·7
1948	801	606	61·7
1947	983	594	61·6
1946	964	453	67·9
1945	667	364	74·4
1944	489	241	57·8
1943	416	217	46·9
1942	463	209	54·4
1941	384	54	9·9
1940	545	14	—
1939	587		

In 1944 five hundred and sixty-three children were immunised, three hundred and twenty one by the Medical Staff of the Department and two hundred and forty-two by General Medical Practitioners.



THE AGE GROUPS AND NUMBERS WERE:

<i>Age Group</i>	<i>By Medical Staff of the Department</i>	<i>By General Medical Practitioners</i>	<i>Total</i>
0-1	157	159	316
1-2	112	53	165
2-3	16	8	24
3-4	11	4	15
4-5	8	8	16
5-10	13	5	18
10-15	4	5	9
	<u>321</u>	<u>242</u>	<u>563</u>

*Reinforcing Doses:* The age groups and numbers were:

<i>Age Group</i>	<i>By Medical Staff of the Department</i>	<i>By General Medical Practitioners</i>	<i>Total</i>
1-5	9	34	43
5-15	552	104	656
	<u>561</u>	<u>138</u>	<u>699</u>

The Department's immunisation records show that at the end of the year 1,471 children 0-5 years and 6,639 children aged 5-15 years had been immunised. The age groups and numbers were:

<i>Age Group</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Total</i>
0- 1	61	
1- 2	377	
2- 3	392	
3- 4	420	
4- 5	491	
	<u>          </u>	1,741
5- 6	624	
6- 7	710	
7- 8	887	
8- 9	823	
9-10	616	
	<u>          </u>	3,360
10-11	690	
11-12	651	
12-13	595	
13-14	505	
14-15	538	
	<u>          </u>	2,979
		<u>8,380</u>

These numbers represent 56·2 per cent. and 88·5 per cent. of the children in the age groups 0-5 years and 5-15 years of the Registrar General's estimated populations of 3,100 and 7,500 in these respective age groups.

It is computed that of 617 babies born in 1953, 272 or 44·1 per cent. were immunised before the first birthday. Whilst this figure is in excess of the national averages of 30·4 per cent. in 1953 and 35·75 per cent. for the first half of 1954 the numbers are still far from the Ministry of Health target figure of 75 per cent.

Individual immunity tends to wane with the passage of time. Taking into account inoculations performed within the last five years only, an index of the immunity to diphtheria in the population is shown in the following table:

<i>Age at 31/12/54: i.e. born in the year:</i>	<i>Under 1 1954</i>	<i>1-5 1953-50</i>	<i>5-10 1949-45</i>	<i>10-15 1944-40</i>	<i>Under 15 Total</i>
Last complete course of injections given during 1950-1954 .. ..	61	1,680	2,253	1,386	5,380
Estimated mid-year child population .. ..	590	2,510	7,500		10,600
Immunity Index .. ..	10.34%	66.93%	48.52%		50.75%

Three thousand children aged 5 to 15 years were inoculated prior to 1950 and the existence of residual protection in this group must be taken into account in interpreting the index.

There have been no notified cases of diphtheria in Eastbourne during the past five years and no deaths since 1946.

Figures for deaths and notifications in Eastbourne and in England and Wales since 1945 are shown below:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Eastbourne</i>		<i>England and Wales</i>	
	<i>Notifications</i>	<i>Deaths</i>	<i>Notifications</i>	<i>Deaths *</i>
1945	1	—	18,596	722
1946	1	1	11,986	472
1947	—	—	5,609	244
1948	1	—	3,575	156
1949	2	—	1,890	84
1950	—	—	962	49
1951	—	—	664	33
1952	—	—	376	32
1953	—	—	286	23
1954	—	—	182	9
			(Provisional)	(Provisional)

\* The deaths include "late effects," i.e. those occurring more than a year after the acute episode.

## C.—WHOOPING COUGH IMMUNISATION

Arrangements for this form of inoculation were approved by the Minister in September 1953. The table below indicates the number of children immunised during 1954. A combined diphtheria/pertussis antigen was used so that the figures in the table below are comparable with those for diphtheria immunisation performed by the Medical Staff of the Department.

<i>Age Groups</i>	<i>By Medical Staff of the Department</i>		<i>By General Practitioners</i>		<i>Totals</i>	
	<i>Primary</i>	<i>Re-inforcing</i>	<i>Primary</i>	<i>Re-inforcing</i>	<i>Primary</i>	<i>Re-inforcing</i>
0-1 .. ..	145	—	94	—	239	—
1-2 .. ..	119	—	28	—	147	—
2-3 .. ..	18	—	6	1	24	1
3-4 .. ..	8	—	4	2	12	2
4-5 .. ..	18	—	5	6	23	6
Aged 5 and over	4	1	2	17	6	18
Totals .. ..	312	1	139	26	451	27

Fifty-two notified cases of whooping cough in children aged 5 years or under were investigated by the staff of the Department. Forty-four children had not been immunised and of the eight remaining, four five year olds were inoculated in infancy and had not subsequently received re-inforcing injections.

Except in one instance the immunised children were reported to have suffered only mild attacks.

## SECTION 27—AMBULANCE SERVICE

The efficiency and standard of service rendered by Supt. A. J. Burnage and the Eastbourne Division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade on behalf of this Authority continued in a highly satisfactory manner.

The closest vigilance was exercised in maintaining a service to meet all essential needs coupled with strict economy. The tendency which was developing for increased use of special transport was brought to the notice of the authorities concerned with subsequent satisfactory results.

The full time staff of the Brigade at the end of the year consisted of the Superintendent, transport sergeant mechanic and eight trained driver/attendants, an increase of one driver attendant over the previous year. The loyal co-operation and help of the voluntary members of the Brigade, who regularly assist with night and escort duties is gratefully acknowledged.

Seven ambulances, a dual purpose vehicle and three sitting case cars were maintained.

The following is a summary of the work undertaken on behalf of the Local Authority during the past year:

	<i>Patients</i>	<i>Journeys</i>	<i>Mileage</i>
Ambulances (7) .. .. .	4,243	2,984	28,480
Dual purpose vehicle (1) and Sitting Case Cars (3) .. .. .	11,366	4,108	45,760

The following services to the Local Authority were rendered in addition to the above:

	<i>Patients</i>	<i>Journeys</i>	<i>Mileage</i>
Occupation Centre 10th May-31st Dec.	2,845	468	5,007
Princes Park Day Nursery 29th March-11th June .. .. .	258	102	610

As a seaside health resort in which a convalescent home is situated the service is called upon to convey a large number of patients to and from the local railway station. In the year under review the following are particulars of patients and mileages of cases sent by rail:

<i>Conveyance used to station</i>	<i>Patients</i>	<i>Train Mileage</i>
Ambulance .. .. .	84	6,800
Sitting Case Car .. .. .	303	20,979

Fares in respect of the above patients were paid by the Local Health Authority in respect of the following only:

<i>Conveyance used to station</i>	<i>Patients</i>	<i>Train Mileage</i>
Ambulance .. .. .	44	3,656
Sitting Case Car .. .. .	17	1,380



# ORIGIN OF CALLS

<i>Origin of Calls</i>	<i>Ambulances</i>					<i>Sitting Car Cases</i>				
	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Emergency calls to street accidents	374	377	451	429	472	38	45	49	41	41
Local Hospitals .. ..	1,723	1,607	1,844	1,913	2,210	1,032	1,141	1,241	1,157	1,280
Local Convalescent Homes ..	32	29	23	35	27	188	183	168	209	216
General Medical Practitioners ..	580	587	565	589	643	274	283	342	327	348
Maternity Home .. ..	88	26	15	29	18	8	28	25	25	12
Nursing Homes .. ..	49	53	27	31	57	6	3	4	6	4
Ministry of Pensions .. ..	9	4	8	21	24	23	55	75	114	98
Other Ambulance Authorities ..	41	54	66	79	61	123	261	218	278	342
Authorised Mental Health Officers	29	25	51	58	47	52	79	74	109	92
Others .. ..	98	156	150	180	362	29	127	258	256	141
<i>Out-Patients:</i>										
Chest Clinic .. ..	147	144	242	234	180	524	364	525	663	723
Foot Clinic .. ..	—	—	8	—	—	—	424	366	236	274
Local Hospitals .. ..	9	24	—	—	88	2,331	4,943	5,988	6,357	7,204
Royal Sussex County Hospital Brighton .. ..	3	7	20	29	20	153	550	211	551	591
Infected Diseases .. ..	3,182	3,093	3,470 115	3,627 98	4,209 34	4,781	8,486	9,544	10,329	11,366
	3,182	3,093	3,585	3,725	4,243	4,781	8,486	9,544	10,329	11,366

# MONTHLY STATISTICS

	<i>Ambulances</i>			<i>Sitting Car Cases</i>		
	<i>Journeys</i>	<i>Patients</i>	<i>Mileage</i>	<i>Journeys</i>	<i>Patients</i>	<i>Mileage</i>
January	215	302	2,227	329	1,072	3,991
February	213	316	1,753	339	966	3,519
March ..	218	314	2,041	345	1,062	3,529
April ..	217	312	2,867	324	964	4,154
May ..	220	343	2,393	302	861	2,734
June ..	261	367	2,666	318	914	2,930
July ..	265	385	2,558	360	1,089	5,534
August ..	276	373	2,318	325	787	3,332
September	269	363	2,969	354	881	4,147
October ..	305	417	2,089	393	951	3,690
November	258	356	2,572	372	908	3,902
December	267	395	2,027	347	911	4,298
TOTALS ..	2,984	4,243	28,480	.. 4,108	11,366	45,760
Occupation Centre				468	2,845	5,007
Day Nursery				102	258	610
				4,678	14,469	51,377

## JOURNEYS AND MILEAGES SINCE 5TH JULY, 1948

	<i>Ambulances</i>		<i>Sitting-Car Cases</i>	
	<i>Journeys</i>	<i>Mileage</i>	<i>Journeys</i>	<i>Mileage</i>
1948 (5th July to 31st Dec.)	1,427	23,127	757	30,415
1949 .. .. .	2,808	48,358	3,452	56,882
1950 .. .. .	2,962	34,013	3,660	55,023
1951 .. .. .	2,668	27,466	4,608	54,838
1952 .. .. .	2,601	29,505	3,724	48,353
1953 .. .. .	2,719	29,220	3,721	46,801
1954* .. .. .	2,984	28,480	4,108	45,760

\*excluding Occupation Centre and Princes Park Day Nursery.

## SECTION 28—PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE AND AFTER CARE

### A.—TUBERCULOSIS

Sixty-two cases of respiratory, and eight of non-respiratory tuberculosis were reported. Of these, thirty-eight respiratory and seven non-respiratory were new cases not previously notified in any other district.

# NOTIFICATION REGISTER

	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Total	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
<i>On Register:</i>						
1st January 1954	150	101	16	17	166	118
<i>Add:</i>						
Notifications ..	22	14	2	4	24	18
Transfers .. ..	9	13	1	—	10	13
Posthumous Notifi- fications ..	—	2	1	—	1	2
Returned to Eastbourne	2	—	—	—	2	—
	183	130	20	21	203	151
<i>Less:</i>						
Deaths .. ..	4	3	2	—	6	3
Left Town .. ..	7	13	1	—	8	13
Arrested .. ..	—	2	—	1	—	3
Diagnosis not con- firmed .. ..	1	1	—	1	1	2
	12	19	3	2	15	21
<i>On Register:</i>						
31st December 1954	171	111	17	19	188	130

Age grouping of new cases notified (45) and transfers to the area (25)

Age Groups	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Total	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
Under 1 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-5 ..	—	1	—	—	—	1
5-10 ..	—	—	—	1	—	1
10-15 ..	—	—	2	—	2	—
15-20 ..	1	2	—	—	1	2
20-25 ..	3	2	—	1	3	3
25-35 ..	8	11	—	—	8	11
35-45 ..	7	1	—	1	7	2
45-55 ..	6	7	—	—	6	7
55-65 ..	4	3	—	1	4	4
Over 65 ..	4	2	2	—	6	2
	33	29	4	4	37	33

## DEATHS:

Five persons died from tuberculosis of the lungs and two persons died from non-respiratory tuberculosis in the following age groups:

	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
25-45 ..	1	—	1	—
45-65 ..	2	1	—	1
Over 65 ..	1	—	—	—

The death rates per 1,000 population were:

Respiratory .. .. .	0·09
Non-Respiratory .. .. .	0·03
All forms .. .. .	0·12

One Health Visitor was employed full time in carrying out welfare work associated with the care of persons suffering from tuberculosis. Every case of tuberculosis notified or discovered is visited and the household advised on the patient's welfare and the services available to them, including the examination of contacts.

The Tuberculosis Visitor is present at Chest Clinic Sessions at which Eastbourne patients attend, facilitating the free interchange of information.

Cases in which bad housing is prejudicial to the control of the disease are represented to the Housing Committee for their special consideration.

## SUMMARY OF THE WORK OF THE TUBERCULOSIS VISITOR

Visits paid to tuberculosis households	..	..	..	..	1165
Chest Clinic attendances	..	..	..	..	97
Visits to hospitals	..	..	..	..	33

Extra Nourishment granted to persons suffering from Tuberculosis:

(a) *Liquid Milk*:

Quantity supplied at two pints per day	..	..	..	3,794 pints
Quantity supplied at one pint per day	..	..	..	19,002 pints
Total	..	..	..	22,976 pints

  

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Cases assisted	70	39	109

The Authority's gross expenditure on this service in the financial year ended 31st March, 1954, amounted to £2,667 7s. 10d. of which sum £2,372 9s. 11d. was devoted to the scheme for tuberculosis persons, £229 19s. 6d. on nursing equipment and £63 18s. 5d, on convalescence in recuperative homes.

### B.C.G. VACCINATION

Protective inoculation by B.C.G. vaccination carried out by the Chest Physician under the Authority's approved arrangements was provided to 28 child contacts and 70 other persons during the year.

Age groups of the children inoculated:

Under 1 year	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
1 to 2 years	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
2 to 5 years	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
5 to 10 years	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
10 to 15 years	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Over 15	..	..	..	..	..	..	1

## CHEST PHYSICIAN'S REPORT

During the year 36 new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were diagnosed, i.e. 5 fewer than in 1953. Of these 36 cases, 11 had minimal disease, 19 had moderately advanced disease, and 2 had far advanced disease. Three cases did not attend this clinic—they moved out of Eastbourne immediately on diagnosis, and one notification was later cancelled as the diagnosis was not confirmed. There were 7 deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis, 4 fewer than in 1953. Thus both the morbidity rate and the mortality rate fell appreciably. In addition, and to somewhat offset this encouraging fall, 24 known cases of pulmonary tuberculosis came to live in Eastbourne during the year.

The declining morbidity and mortality rates are the result of a combination of the following:

- (a) more effective treatment rendering more patients non-infectious;
- (b) careful supervision after completion of active treatment;



- (c) concentration of supervision of contacts to patients known to be infectious (of whom there are at least 98 in Eastbourne);
- (d) general health education; and
- (e) the other methods of prevention outlined in last year's report.

So far as contact examinations are concerned, these, of course, have a two-fold object:

- (a) to keep under regular observation the group of individuals running the greatest risk of developing tuberculosis; and
- (b) to discover possible unknown sources of infection.

During the year 139 new contacts were examined at the clinic. This gives a figure of approximately 4 for each new case of tuberculosis diagnosed. In addition, 239 other contacts attended (most of them twice, many more than twice, during the year) for routine observation examination.

Owing to the continued pressure on the Radiological Department of St. Mary's Hospital most attention had to be paid to the close contacts of infectious cases but we look forward to being able to examine a far greater number of more remote contacts such as colleagues at work or at school, or at college, when more X-ray facilities are available. Out of the total of 378 contacts examined during the year, 5 were found to have developed tuberculosis in its earliest and most easily curable stage. This gives a morbidity rate of 13 per thousand which is considerably higher than amongst the general population, which has a morbidity rate of only 2 to 3 per thousand.

During 1954 one special survey was carried out. This followed the discovery of a case of tuberculosis at the Training College. All students and staff were X-rayed and all students were tuberculin tested, 70 out of a total of 139 being tuberculin negative. These 70 were offered inoculation with B.C.G. and all accepted. Sixty-seven converted, becoming tuberculin positive after inoculation, but 3, although showing satisfactory reactions to the inoculation, failed to convert.

Apart from these 70 student teachers, 28 child contacts were inoculated with B.C.G. during the year.

Three families were re-housed during 1954 and it was estimated that there remained at least 12 families whom it was felt should be re-housed on account of the presence of tuberculosis in unsatisfactory home conditions.

*Signed, A. H. FERGUSON GOW.*



## MASS RADIOGRAPHY

The Mass Radiography Unit of the South East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board carried out its third survey in Eastbourne from 12th March to the 9th April under its Director, Dr. B. G. Rigden. The Unit functioned at the Coach Station, Susans Road, and the Department assisted generally by providing booking facilities for the general public, arranging block appointments for employees of the Local Authority and other employers of labour by press and poster publicity.

The numbers X-rayed compared favourably with those of the previous surveys, particularly so in view of the short duration of the survey, viz. 4 weeks against 8 weeks in 1951 and 7½ weeks in 1952.

### Comparative results of the three surveys:

	<i>Number X-rayed</i>	<i>Number with abnormal large films</i>	<i>Number (per 1,000 persons X-rayed) with active tuberculosis</i>
1951	8,202	293	0.85
1952	6,582	268	1.7
1954	6,808	254	1.32

The following analysis of the results of his survey was furnished by Dr. Rigden.

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Number of persons X-rayed .. ..	3,210	3,598	6,808
Number recalled for large films .. ..	167	224	391
Number found to have abnormal large films .. ..	118	136	254
Analysis of abnormal large films:			
(a) Active Pulmonary Tuberculosis .. ..	5	4	9
(b) Inactive Pulmonary Tuberculosis .. ..	45	65	110
(c) Malignant disease .. ..	3	—	3
(d) Other diseases of lung or pleura .. ..	59	40	99
(e) Cardio-Vascular Diseases .. ..	6	27	33
Number (per 1,000 persons X-rayed) with active pulmonary tuberculosis .. ..	1.32		
5 persons failed to attend for large films.			

## B.—ILLNESS GENERALLY

The Health Visiting, Home Nursing, Domestic Help and, indeed, all the services provided by the Department are available for all cases referred to them including those discharged from hospitals. In cases where other official bodies or voluntary organisations are able to help, the persons concerned are advised accordingly.

## C.—RECUPERATIVE HOLIDAYS

The Authority's arrangements include the provision of convalescence for persons recovering from illness and to other invalids in cases not otherwise provided for. In accordance with recommendations of general practitioners and following investigation by this department a period of convalescence was approved by the Health Committee for 5 adults and 3 children.

#### D.—LOAN OF EQUIPMENT

A total of 677 articles were loaned to 370 patients.

The demands on this service are shown by the following figures:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Number of Loans</i>	<i>Number of Patients</i>	<i>No. of Cases in which no charge was made</i>
1954	677	370	103
1953	768	435	110
1952	672	363	69
1951	709	328	71
1950	550	337	68
1949	42	27	3

#### E.—VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

I wish to record grateful acknowledgement for the facilities and services offered by voluntary organisations including the Order of St. John, the British Red Cross Society, the Guardianship Society, the Women's Voluntary Services, the Eastbourne Voluntary Association for the care of Cripples, the National Society for the Prevention of cruelty to Children and other local and national organisations, of which full advantage was taken in appropriate cases.

#### F.—HEALTH EDUCATION

Health education remained a dominant responsibility of every section of the Department. The emphasis has continued to be placed upon individual teaching by members of the staff as opportunity presented itself. The main fields of activity are in welfare centres, ante-natal clinics, dental clinics, school medical work and, of course, in the homes of persons visited by health visitors, sanitary inspectors, welfare and other field workers.

A leaflet library is available for use by the staff of the Department enabling appropriate and up to date information to be disseminated when and where it is needed and preventing the indiscriminate and expensive distribution of pamphlets which are all too often discarded.

Lectures including film strip talks were given by members of the staff to interested bodies and a start on group teaching is envisaged in the following year.

#### G.—SITTER-UP SERVICE

The services of five "sitters-up" were used on ninety-four nights in twenty-nine cases of sickness at home requiring attention at night, at a cost of £29 to the Local Health Authority.

#### H.—LAST OFFICES

Payment for the services of persons in connection with last offices was made on one occasion.

## SECTION 29—DOMESTIC HELP

The Local Health Authority's Scheme was amended during the year to provide for the employment of such numbers of domestic helps as may, from time to time be agreed with the Minister. The approved establishment was increased from twenty to twenty-two whole time domestic helps. At the end of the year the number employed was nine whole time and seventeen part time, equivalent to twenty full time domestic helps.

Difficulty was experienced in attracting suitable persons into the Service and generally the demand continued to exceed the supply of help available. There were 27 changes in staff, 14 leaving with 13 new additions. At peak periods it was necessary to limit the amount of help in many cases.

Ministry of Health Circular 27/54 received special consideration by the Health Services Committee and approval was given to the employment of a specially selected home help to assist in the rehabilitation of problem families.

During the year 301 cases were granted the services of domestic helps. Charges according to the Authority's scale were reimbursed by the National Assistance Board in 170 cases.

							<i>New cases</i>	<i>Old cases</i>
According to Scale:								
Full cost	..	..	..	..	..	..	17	9
Part cost	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
Free	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	5
Special Cases:								
Part cost	..	..	..	..	..	..	28	16
Free	..	..	..	..	..	..	19	33
National Assistance Board Cases							67	103
							135	166
							Total 301	

The cost of the service in 1953-54 amounted to £7,008 17s. 9d. of which £3,816 3s. 4d. was recovered in payment for the services of Domestic Helps. Net expenditure per 1,000 population for this period was £48 10s. 0d. compared with the average for all County Boroughs of £78 17s. 0d.

## NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946 SECTION 51—MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE

### ADMINISTRATION

The responsible Committee and staff together with qualifications remained unchanged from my report of 1952 as amended, with regard to the Occupational Therapist, by my report of 1953.

I am pleased to say that the Occupation Centre for Mental Defectives was opened on a full time basis at the former Day Nursery in Salehurst Road on 4th May, 1954. Details are given below.

## LUNACY AND MENTAL TREATMENT ACTS

The total number of persons admitted to Mental Hospitals during the year has only increased by one since 1953 and an encouraging feature is a decrease in certified patients by 9 and a corresponding increase in voluntary patients by 10.

The following figures give a comparison over the past 5 years:

Year	Population	Patients Admitted to Mental Hospitals		
		Voluntary	Certified	Others
1950	58,050	123	41	1
1951	57,510	148	29	1
1952	57,200	137	51	3
1953	57,190	178	57	—
1954	57,600	188	46	2

The number remaining in Mental Hospitals as at 31st December, 1954, was 250, 11 less than at the end of the previous year. Of these 103 were voluntary patients.

ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL (Designated under Section 20).

During the year 9 men and 44 women were admitted under this Section under orders signed by the Duly Authorised Officers. This is an increase of 25 on the previous year.

Of the 9 men, 1 was certified, 4 were admitted as voluntary patients and 4 dealt with by relatives.

Of the 44 women, 13 were certified, 9 admitted as voluntary patients and 22 dealt with by relatives.

### HELLINGLY HOSPITAL

#### (a) Certified Cases (Sections 14-16 Lunacy Act, 1890)

Forty-three persons (16 male and 27 female) were certified. Of that total 8 were admitted from their own homes, the remaining 35 being admitted from St. Mary's Hospital. In addition three cases were admitted direct to Hellingly Hospital as certified patients on a Court Order.

#### (b) Urgency Orders (Section 11, Lunacy Act, 1890)

One male and 1 female were admitted under this Section. Both were subsequently certified.

#### (c) Voluntary Patients (Section 1, Mental Treatment Act, 1930)

The admission of 83 persons was arranged by the officers (34 men and 49 women). Of these 40 were admitted from their own homes and 43 from St. Mary's Hospital.

#### (d) Temporary Patients (Section 5, Mental Treatment Act, 1930)

No cases were admitted under this Section.

The position in regard to patients in Mental Hospitals at the beginning and end of the year was:



	<i>St. Francis Hospital</i>		<i>Hellingly Hospital</i>		<i>Others</i>		<i>Total</i>
	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	
December 31st, 1953 ..	32	68	46	106	2	7	261
Admitted during 1954	19	7	77	130	—	3	236
Discharged during 1954	18	7	63	123	1	—	212
Died during 1954 ..	4	7	11	13	—	—	35
December 31st, 1954	29	61	49	110	1	10	250

## CARE AND AFTER CARE

In connection with mental ill health the Mental Health Officers made 366 visits and 379 interviews were given at Avenue House. This is an increase over the previous year of 122 visits and 110 interviews.

## PSYCHOLOGICAL OUT-PATIENT CLINIC

As in past years this continued to be held at the Princess Alice Hospital on Monday afternoons and was conducted by the Medical Staff of Hellingly Hospital. Valuable service is given by this clinic in the early treatment of cases of mental illness, also for consultation and after care. Close liaison is maintained with this office and the Hellingly Psychiatric Social Worker is a frequent visitor to the Mental Health Department in order to check over case histories, etc.

## MENTAL DEFICIENCY ACTS, 1913-38

Two males were added to the Register, 1 on notification of the Local Education Authority (under Section 57 (5) of the Education Act, 1944) and 1 adult male notified by the Chest Physician. Eight males were removed from the Register: 2 institution cases dying and 2 being discharged; 1 Guardianship case was discharged; 2 supervision cases left the town and 1 was transferred to the Lunacy Acts.

Four females were added to the Register, all over 16 years of age; 1 being transferred from the L.C.C., 1 removed from Hellingly Hospital to St. Helen's Hospital, Hastings under the Mental Deficiency Acts, 2 cases were reported by relatives, 1 being placed under Statutory Supervision and one admitted to Leybourne Grange under Section 6.

Four females were removed from the Register: 1 institution case left the country and 1 died. One Guardianship case died and 1 was discharged.

Two males and 2 females were awaiting institutional care.

Two hundred and sixty nine visits were made to cases under supervision.

The position with regard to mental defectives on 31st December was:

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
In Institutions .. ..	42	32	74
On Licence from Institutions .. ..	—	4	4
Under Guardianship .. ..	4	5	9
Under Supervision .. ..	28	44	72
	74	85	159



The Institution cases were placed as follows:

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Laughton Lodge, near Lewes .. .. .	5	1
Brentry Colony, Bristol .. .. .	7	—
Stoke Park Colony, Bristol .. .. .	7	6
Barvin Park Certified Institution, Herts. .. .. .	1	—
Princess Christian Farm Colony, Hildenborough .. .. .	2	—
Rampton State Institution .. .. .	1	1
St. Teresa's Certified Institution, near Farnham .. .. .	—	9
Hortham Colony, Almondsbury, Bristol .. .. .	—	1
Etloe House Certified Institution, Leyton .. .. .	—	2
Darenth Park, Dartford .. .. .	7	5
St. Lawrences, Caterham .. .. .	1	—
Pouchlands Hospital Certified Institution, Chailey .. .. .	2	—
Hill House, Rye .. .. .	—	4
St. Helen's Hospital, Hastings .. .. .	2	1
Eastry Hospital, near Sandwich .. .. .	1	—
Leybourne Grange, West Malling .. .. .	6	2
	<hr/> 42	<hr/> 32

The gross cost of this service during the year ended 31st March, 1954, amounted to £2,442 18s, 3d. The net expenditure represented £38 12s. 0d. per 1,000 population compared with the average for all County Boroughs of £44 12s. 0d.

## OCCUPATION CENTRE

The Centre was opened on a full-time basis on 4th May, 1954, in the premises of the former Day Nursery in Salehurst Road. With relatively little adaptation the premises lent themselves to the accommodation of up to 20 defectives and the formation of 3 classes staffed by a Supervisor and two Assistant Supervisors. There is a small garden which is valuable for outdoor recreation.

A mid-day meal was supplied by the Schools Meals Service and morning milk by arrangement with the Ministry of Food.

Transport to and from the Centre was provided by the Ambulance Service in suitable vehicles. The average number of defectives on the register was 16.6 and the ages varied between 6 years and 43 years, the majority being under 15 years of age.

An exhibition of handicrafts was held during the year and the sum of £9 14s. 0d. was realised. Much credit is due to the Supervisor, Miss Lones, and to her staff for the quality of the work produced and for the general results obtained during this first year.

Average Daily Attendances May-December, 1954

1954 Month	<i>Eastbourne Pupils</i>			<i>East Sussex Pupils</i>			<i>Total All Pupils</i>
	5-15	Over 15	Total	5-15	Over 15	Total	
May .. ..	5.40	5.00	10.40	0.95	0.90	1.85	12.25
June .. ..	6.63	5.89	12.52	0.63	1.58	2.21	14.73
July .. ..	5.76	5.14	10.90	1.00	1.81	2.81	13.71
August .. ..			Holiday				
September ..	5.31	5.54	10.85	1.08	1.69	2.77	13.62
October .. ..	5.19	4.24	9.43	1.33	1.90	3.23	12.66
November ..	6.20	3.90	10.10	1.25	1.90	3.15	13.25
December .. ..	6.94	4.56	11.50	1.31	1.50	2.81	14.31
Daily Average for period .. ..	5.92	4.90	10.82	1.08	1.63	2.71	13.53

## SECTION C

### PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Notification of Infectious Disease  
Food Poisoning  
Public Health Laboratory Service  
Venereal Diseases

#### INFECTIOUS DISEASE

During the year there was no unusual occurrence of notifiable disease. There was a considerable reduction in the number of notifications of scarlet fever. Diphtheria was again absent from the list of notifications.

Of the 35 cases of puerperal pyrexia notified, 18 were due to non-puerperal causes.

There were no deaths in the community resulting from acute infectious disease.

The following table indicates the number of notifications (corrected) and age incidence of infectious diseases.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	At all ages	AGE INCIDENCE							No. Removed to Isolation Hospital
		Under 1	1-3	3-5	5-10	10-15	15-25	25 & Over	
Scarlet Fever .. .. .	19	—	—	5	9	3	2	—	11
Whooping Cough .. .. .	130	7	27	32	60	—	1	3	1
Acute Poliomyelitis:									
Paralytic .. .. .	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Non-paralytic .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles .. .. .	9	—	3	—	5	1	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia .. .. .	35	—	—	—	—	—	17	18	—

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	At all ages	AGE INCIDENCE					No. Removed to Isolation Hospital
		0-5	5-15	15-45	45-65	65 and over	
Acute Pneumonia .. .. .	16	3	4	2	5	2	—
Dysentery .. .. .	6	—	2	3	—	1	1
Erysipelas .. .. .	6	—	—	—	2	4	1
Tuberculosis: Respiratory .. .. .	38	—	—	18	14	6	—
Other .. .. .	7	—	2	2	1	2	—

## FOOD POISONING

No case of food poisoning or suspected food poisoning was brought to the notice of the Local Authority during the year.

## HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICE

Numerous pathological investigations were carried out on behalf of the Department at the Public Health Laboratory, Brighton, under the direction of Dr. J. E. Jameson, and by Dr. A. G. Shera and Dr. D. C. Taylor, pathologists to the Eastbourne Hospital Management Committee, to whom grateful acknowledgement is given for their ready assistance and co-operation at all times.

## VENEREAL DISEASES

The following information was supplied by the Eastbourne Hospital Management Committee which is responsible for the treatment of venereal diseases. Two weekly sessions were held at the treatment centre at the Princess Alice Memorial Hospital, Mondays for women and children and Wednesdays for men.

Cases attending the centre, which includes one of syphilis from outside the Borough, are shown in the table below. The figures in brackets relate to 1953.

<i>Condition</i>	<i>Males</i>		<i>Females</i>		<i>Total</i>		<i>Grand Total</i>
	<i>Old Cases</i>	<i>New Cases</i>	<i>Old Cases</i>	<i>New Cases</i>	<i>Old Cases</i>	<i>New Cases</i>	
Syphilis .. ..	5 (5)	1 (1)	5 (5)	1 (2)	10 (10)	2 (3)	12 (13)
Gonorrhoea ..	2 (1)	1 (4)	— (—)	— (—)	2 (1)	1 (4)	3 (5)
Other Conditions ..	11 (11)	24 (18)	19 (19)	9 (18)	30 (30)	33 (36)	63 (66)
Totals ..	18 (17)	26 (23)	24 (24)	10 (20)	42 (41)	36 (43)	78 (84)

The total attendances were 88 (146) Males 60 (75), Females 28 (71).

## SUMMARY 1942-1954.

<i>Year</i>	<i>(1) Total Cases</i>	<i>(2) Non-V.D. Cases included in (1)</i>	<i>(3) Attendances</i>		
			<i>(a) For M.O.s Attention</i>	<i>(b) Intermediate Times</i>	<i>(c) Total</i>
1942	118	42	399	168	567
1943	216	90	694	231	925
1944	271	123	766	181	947
1945	286	151	646	118	764
1946	277	148	756	318	1,074
1947	204	112	628	147	775
1948	160	96	461	12	473
1949	155	80	454	58	512
1950	160	68	348	68	416
1951	98	62	286	20	306
1952	86	62	223	16	239
1953	84	66	141	5	146
1954	78	63	88	—	88

## **SECTION D**

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

Nursing Homes  
Nurses Agencies  
Nurseries and Child Minders  
Children's Act, 1948  
National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children  
Staff Medical Examinations  
Midwives Act, 1951  
Epilepsy and Cerebral Palsy

### **PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936—SECTION 187**

#### **NURSING HOMES**

Two Nursing Homes were registered during the year one of which was subsequently removed from the Register before commencing to function as such. One other Nursing Home was also closed, the Certificates of Registration being surrendered voluntarily in each case.

At the end of the year, eleven nursing homes on the Register provided 122 beds for chronic, medical and surgical cases and 4 beds for maternity cases.

#### **NURSES ACTS, 1943 and 1945**

#### **NURSES AGENCIES**

Licences in respect of the two existing Agencies were renewed. The records of Agencies were found to be satisfactory on inspection by the medical staff of the Department.

#### **NURSERIES AND CHILD MINDERS' REGULATION ACT, 1948**

Two premises other than private dwellings where children are received to be looked after for the day, or a substantial part of the day, or for any longer period not exceeding six days, remained registered under this Act.

One person was registered as a Child Minder under the Act being a person who for reward received into her home children under the age of five to be looked after as stated in the preceding paragraph.

Five persons remained registered as Child Minders at the end of the year. Orders were made by the Council under Section 2 of the Act, restricting the number of children to be looked after to a combined total of 23 for all five homes.



## CHILDREN'S ACT, 1948

### RESIDENTIAL HOMES AND NURSERY

The Medical Officer of Health remained on the list of general practitioners of the Local Executive Council and, in that capacity, was responsible for the medical care of all children in the Council's Residential Homes and Nursery. In addition to medical examination by the staff of the Department prior to admission, all children in the Homes were medically inspected once a quarter and children in the Nursery were inspected monthly.

Dental inspection of the children was carried out in the Homes by the Chief Dental Officer and any necessary treatment was provided without delay through the School Dental Service or, in the case of pre-school children, through the Council's arrangements for dental treatment under the National Health Service Act.

### REPORT BY INSPECTOR CLEMENTS OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO CHILDREN

1. Cases brought to the notice of the N.S.P.C.C. by the Staff of the Public Health Department.

Classification	No.	Children				Action	Result
		0-2	2-5	5-15	15-17		
Neglect	7	2	3	15	1	Warned and Supervised	General improvement. Some still under supervision
Ill-Treatment	2	1	3	3	—	Warned and Supervised	No repetition. Satisfactory
Exposure	2	1	1	1	—	Warned and Supervised	Satisfactory conclusion
Advice Sought	1	—	—	1	2	Advised	Advice followed
Total	12	4	7	20	3	Visits paid in respect of these cases— 149	

2. Other cases totalling 70 reported by the general public and other official bodies were classified as:

Neglect	..	..	..	19	} These cases involved 141 children, 90 of whom were of school age. Visits made in connection with these cases 436.
Ill-treatment	..	..	..	5	
Beyond Control	..	..	..	5	
Moral Danger	..	..	..	7	
Advice or aid sought	..	..	..	34	

Results can be considered as satisfactory, and on the whole, warnings have been heeded, resulting in a general improvement.

### STAFF MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS

The Medical Staff were called upon to devote an increasing amount of their time to medical examinations in connection with new entrants and superannuation, of staff of various departments concerning absence from duty on account of accident or illness, and applicants for admission to Training Colleges.

In 1954 the examinations were:

Superannuation	..	..	..	114
New Appointments	..	..	..	94
Accident	..	..	..	9
Sick Pay	..	..	..	86
Training Colleges	..	..	..	25
				<hr/>
				328
				<hr/>

The extent of the increase is shown by the following:

<i>Year</i>					<i>Total Examinations</i>
(1st January to 31st December)					
1949 (Part year—1st April to 31st December)	..	..	..	..	178
1950	..	..	..	..	252
1951	..	..	..	..	257
1952	..	..	..	..	204
1953	..	..	..	..	201
1954	..	..	..	..	328

### MIDWIVES ACT, 1951

The Local Health Authority is the Local Supervising Authority for the purposes of the Midwives Act, 1951.

During the year thirty-four midwives notified their intention to practice of whom three were in the Local Health Authority's Domiciliary Midwifery Service, twenty-nine were employed in the Hospital Service and two in private practice.

### EPILEPSY AND CEREBRAL PALSY

At the end of the year there were thirty-one ascertained epileptics on the Department's records and thirteen persons with cerebral palsy. Two persons suffered from both afflictions. During the year eleven persons were ascertained as epileptics including nine children. Three epileptics and one cerebral palsy case died and one epileptic left the area. There was thus an increase of six on the Department's records.

The known incidence of epilepsy and cerebral palsy in the borough is 0.75 per 1,000 population which remains low as compared to the estimated national incidence of 2 per thousand population.

The table below indicates the number of persons ascertained and the sources of ascertainment and supervision at the end of the year.

*Number of Persons Ascertained*

	<i>Local Education Authority</i>	<i>Mental Health Service</i>	<i>Voluntary Association for the Care of Cripples</i>	<i>In Institutional Care</i>
<i>On records at 31-12-1953</i>				
Epileptic ..	11	7	—	6
Cerebral Palsy ..	3	6	4	1
<i>Removed during 1954</i>				
Epileptic ..	—	1 left town 1 died	—	2 died 1 returned home
Cerebral Palsy ..	—	—	—	1 died
<i>Ascertained during 1954</i>				
Epileptic ..	9	3 (1 returned home from institution)	—	—
Cerebral Palsy ..	—	—	—	—
<i>On Records at 31-12-1954</i>				
Epileptic ..	20	8	—	3
Cerebral Palsy ..	3	6	4	—

The services available to such persons and the liaison between officers and organisations dealing with their treatment and welfare remained as described in my annual report for 1953.

## SECTION E

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply

Public Baths

Report of Chief Sanitary Inspector:

Sanitary Administration

Food Inspection and Supervision

Housing

Factories Acts

Rodent Control

## WATER SUPPLY

The water supply of the Borough was satisfactory. In addition to the sources described in my 1952 report water from the Waterworks Road Pumping Station was pumped into supply during a test carried out under the supervision of the Geological Survey which demonstrated that a large quantity of water of very high standard could be taken from this source.

The closest co-operation to safeguard the purity of the water supply was maintained between the Eastbourne Waterworks Company and the Public Health Department. The results of 14 chemical and 101 bacteriological examinations of both raw and piped supplies carried out on behalf of the Company and of the Department were uniformly satisfactory indicating the wholesomeness and suitability of the water supply for public purposes.

## PUBLIC BATHS

The Public Baths under the control of the Public Health Committee are:

### (1) OLD TOWN

#### (a) *Individual Baths (hot and cold):*

Twelve baths are provided for males and 5 for females.

#### (b) *Swimming Bath:*

This bath has a capacity of approximately 46,000 gallons. The water used in the bath is pumped from a well on the premises and is treated by a modern and up-to-date filtration and chlorination plant (break-point conditions).

### (2) SEASIDE

Thirty individual baths are provided, 15 for males and 15 for females.

#### Individual Baths:

<i>Users</i>			<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Children</i>	<i>Total</i>
Old Town	..	..	6,072	4,061	918	11,051
Seaside	..	..	13,009	7,888	1,867	22,764
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
			19,081	11,949	2,785	33,815
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

There was a decrease of 1,196 users compared with the previous year, 1,134 fewer at Old Town and 62 at Seaside.

The actual number of persons involved in these attendances is believed to be relatively small. Attendances may be expected to continue to fall as sanitary fittings improve in domestic residences.

Having regard to facilities also provided at the Devonshire Baths it is probable that the provision of individual baths is now greater than is justified by the size or nature of the borough.

The totals during the previous five years were:

			<i>Old Town</i>	<i>Seaside</i>
1949	..	..	17,041	37,095
1950	..	..	15,768	34,415
1951	..	..	12,499	25,635
1952	..	..	12,252	21,114
1953	..	..	12,185	22,826
1954	..	..	11,051	22,764



## SWIMMING BATH

The Old Town Swimming Bath was opened from 10th May to 30th October. The numbers using the bath during this period were:

### *Organised Parties:*

Sessions for:

Local Authority Schools .. .. .	13,620
Private Schools .. .. .	1,394
Youth Organisations .. .. .	481
Mixed Bathing .. .. .	4,166
Women and Girls .. .. .	950
Men and Boys .. .. .	1,809
	<hr/>
	22,420
	<hr/>

The users in the previous five years were:

1949 .. .. .	16,413
1950 .. .. .	11,521
1951 .. .. .	11,533
1952 .. .. .	18,290
1953 .. .. .	21,842

Regular routine tests of the chlorine content of the water were carried out every two hours by the Attendant in Charge and regular samples of the bath water taken for bacteriological examination.

## REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

### SANITARY ADMINISTRATION

#### GENERAL SUMMARY

Visits and inspections made during the year:

For general purposes .. .. .	4,110
Housing .. .. .	1,681
Food and Food Premises .. .. .	3,032
Infectious Diseases .. .. .	104
Rodent Control .. .. .	346
Miscellaneous .. .. .	1,242
	<hr/>
Total .. .. .	10,515
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Food samples taken .. .. .	567
Meat carcasses inspected .. .. .	19,225

### INSPECTION OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES

The inspection of premises used for food preparation in a resort where the hotel and catering trade is the principal industry rightly occupies a considerable amount of the time of the inspectors. There had been during the year talk of a Food and Drugs (Amendment) Act and new Food Regulations coming into force but this did not materialise; nevertheless, considerable work was done under the old Act and the Food Byelaws with the co-operation of owners or



occupiers in the improvement of many food premises. Talks and elementary demonstrations at the place of work during inspections is the best method of inculcating the vital importance of the hygienic handling of food and of personal cleanliness. This form of education is, of course, more important in those places where casual labour is introduced for the season or part of the season, but at all times importance is given to the predominant factor, namely, personal hygiene for, with or without regulations, there is no method of supervision which can ensure the continuous observance of the simple but vitally necessary requirement, that of the washing of hands after use of the water closet. It is towards the encouragement of this as a habit that caterers and occupiers of food premises generally are recommended to place wash basins at easily accessible points between the cloakroom and the workplace. Much has been done in this connection.

The details below show the number of inspections, etc., made to food premises generally:

Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	..	60
Butchers' Shops and Wholesale Depots	..	..	..	..	..	206
Dairies and Milk Distributors	..	..	..	..	..	237
Fish Shops	..	..	..	..	..	59
Fried Fish Shops	..	..	..	..	..	27
Food Samples taken	..	..	..	..	..	567
Hotel and Restaurant Kitchens	..	..	..	..	..	273
Ice Cream Manufacturers	..	..	..	..	..	155
Ice Cream Retailers	..	..	..	..	..	206
Meat Products Preparation Premises	..	..	..	..	..	49
Merchandise Marks Act and Orders	..	..	..	..	..	73
Other food shops and stores	..	..	..	..	..	369
Slaughterhouses	..	..	..	..	..	520
Visits in connection with Unfit Food	..	..	..	..	..	231

The number of food premises in the Borough fell into the following classifications:

Bakers and Bakers Shops	..	..	..	..	..	42
Breweries	..	..	..	..	..	1
Butchers	..	..	..	..	..	41
Confectioners (other than flour confections)	..	..	..	..	..	87
Dairies	..	..	..	..	..	9
Delicatessen and Sandwich Shops	..	..	..	..	..	7
Fish and Fried Fish	..	..	..	..	..	31
Fruiterers and Greengrocers	..	..	..	..	..	65
Grocers, Provision and General Stores	..	..	..	..	..	143
Ice Cream Manufacturers	..	..	..	..	..	17
Meat Products Factories	..	..	..	..	..	6
Premises where Ice Cream is sold	..	..	..	..	..	126
Public Houses and Hotels with open bars	..	..	..	..	..	54
Restaurants, Cafes and Snack Bars	..	..	..	..	..	117
Wholesale Manufacturers or Suppliers	..	..	..	..	..	7

The number of premises registered under section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 for the preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food intended for sale was:

Butchers Shops	..	..	..	..	..	33
Grocers and Provision Stores	..	..	..	..	..	16
Cooked Meat Manufacturer	..	..	..	..	..	1
Fried Fish Shops	..	..	..	..	..	8
Potato Crisp Manufacturer	..	..	..	..	..	1

# MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS

## (a) Registration of Dairies and Distributors

The following were registered under these Regulations:

Dairies (Premises) .. .. .	9
Distributors (Persons) .. .. .	58

Of these, one dairy and two distributors were registered only for the sale of cream.

There was an increase of 19 in the number of Distributors registered, this is a result of the activities of the dairy firms in encouraging small grocers, etc. to sell milk in the unopened bottle in which it is supplied by the wholesale dairy.

This method makes liquid milk more readily available to the housewife and, we are assured, has materially increased the consumption of milk, which is desirable.

## (b) Sampling of Milk:

Milk is sampled for three main purposes, namely to ensure that:

- (i) the chemical composition complies with the requirements of the Sale of Milk Regulations;
- (ii) it has been effectively pasteurised and not contaminated after pasteurisation;
- (iii) as delivered to the dairies is free from the germ of tuberculosis.

The results of the samples taken for the above purposes are shown in the following pages.

## (i) Chemical Analysis

Of the twenty-two samples submitted to the Public Analyst, six were milk sold as "Channel Island Milk."

The table shows the average composition of the samples and the average of the samples of Channel Island Milk.

<i>Samples taken</i>	<i>Milk Fat %</i>	<i>Milk Solids other than Milk Fat %</i>
Average for the Year .. .. .	3.65	8.64
Richest Sample (October) .. .. .	3.95	8.69
Lowest Sample (August) .. .. .	3.35	8.54
Average of Channel Island Milk Samples	4.44	8.94
Requirements of the Sale of Milk Regulations .. .. .	3.00	8.50

## (ii) Milk (Special Designation) Regulations

The following licences were granted:

To Pasteurise Milk .. .. .	1
Dealers' Licences to use the designation "Pasteurised" .. .. .	51
Dealers' Licences to use the designation "Sterilised" .. .. .	14
Dealers' Licences to use the designation "Tuberculin Tested" .. .. .	18

Practically the whole of the milk sold retail in Eastbourne is pasteurised and bottled at the pasteurising establishment. As will be seen above there is only one pasteurising establishment in the town, other local dairies being supplied from these premises. Some pasteurised milk is brought from Brighton already pasteurised and bottled.

The method of pasteurisation used both locally and by the Brighton firm is that whereby the milk is treated by the high temperature short time method; the milk is raised to a temperature of at least 161° F. and maintained at that temperature for 15 seconds and immediately cooled to a temperature at or below 50° F.

There is a quantity of sterilised milk imported into the town already bottled and sealed.

A small quantity of tuberculin tested milk bottled at the farm of production is sold, this being practically the whole of the untreated milk dealt with.

Samples of pasteurised and sterilised milk are submitted to the Public Health Laboratory at Brighton for examination. The number of samples taken and the results of the examinations are shown in the following table, together with the appropriate tests.

Class of Milk	No. of Samples Tested	Appropriate Tests	Number of Samples	
			Passed	Failed
Pasteurised .. ..	92	Phosphatase .. .. Methylene Blue .. ..	92 91	— 1
Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised ..	23	Phosphatase .. .. Methylene Blue .. ..	23 20	— 3
Tuberculin Tested (Farm Bottled Raw Milk) .. ..	31	Methylene Blue .. ..	28	3
Sterilised .. ..	14	Turbidity Test .. ..	14	—

Of the samples which failed to satisfy the appropriate test four pasteurised milks were taken on days on which the atmospheric shade temperature exceeded 65° F. and the keeping quality test was not, therefore, strictly reasonable. Of the thirty-one samples of tuberculin tested farm bottled milk it will be seen that three failed the only prescribed test. Reports on these milks were referred to the County Milk Production Officer for attention at the farms.

### (iii) Examination of Milk for the Presence of Tuberculosis

Ninety-seven samples were taken of ordinary milk and of the tuberculin tested farm bottled raw milk on delivery at the dairy. Of these the bacteriologist reported that ninety were negative. In five cases M. Tuberculosis was found by guinea pig inoculation and in the case of two samples the guinea pigs died five days after the inoculation, the examinations therefore being void.

The five samples in which tuberculosis was found were referred to the Divisional Veterinary Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries who carried out appropriate examination and testing at the farms of origin of the milks. In one case the herd had been entirely dispersed between the time of sampling and the date of the report and in the other cases further sampling of the milks was necessary before the Veterinary Officer was satisfied that the affected cows had been eliminated and the milk could be considered free from infection.

## MANUFACTURE AND SALE OF ICE CREAM

### (a) Registered Premises

The number of premises registered for the manufacture, storage or sale of ice cream in accordance with Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, was:

(a) Wholesale Manufacturer .. ..	1
(b) Manufacture and Retail Sale .. ..	16
(c) For the Sale of Ice Cream .. ..	126
(d) For Storage of Ice Cream for the Purpose of Sale .. ..	1

One application for registration of premises for the sale of ice cream was refused; the applicant did not appeal.

### (b) Bacteriological Examination

The effective heat treatment of ice cream during the process of manufacture and the control of the storage temperature are governed by the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, and for the purpose of ensuring that the Regulations were complied with 155 visits were paid to manufacturers' premises and 206 inspections made of premises where ice cream is sold. One hundred and ninety-six samples of ice cream were taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination by the Methylene Blue test, which is the only test to which samples of ice cream are submitted for checking the effectiveness of the heat treatment and care in handling. As a guide it is suggested that bacteriologists should grade the ice cream in accordance with the period taken to reduce methylene blue as indicated below:

Grade	Time taken to reduce Methylene Blue
1 .. ..	4½ hours or more
2 .. ..	2½ to 4 hours
3 .. ..	½ to 2 hours
4 .. ..	Less than ½ hour



The bacteriologist placed the 196 samples taken in the following grades:

Grade 1	..	..	..	..	80
Grade 2	..	..	..	..	67
Grade 3	..	..	..	..	36
Grade 4	..	..	..	..	13

It is suggested that Grades 1 and 2 be deemed to be satisfactory and Grades 3 and 4 to be less satisfactory and requiring some further attention in manufacture or handling. It will be seen that 147 samples were placed in the upper grades and 49 fell into the lower grades. In the majority of cases samples from the same premises were subsequently classed in Grades 1 and 2.

(c) *Chemical Analysis*

The Food Standards (Ice Cream) Order, 1953, gives the operative standard for ice cream, namely:

Fat	..	..	..	..	..	5%
Sugar	..	..	..	..	..	10%
Milk solids other than Fat	..	..	..	..	..	7½%

Thirteen samples were submitted for analysis, 12 of which complied with the prescribed standard, and one was deficient in fat 11 per cent. This sample is referred to under the heading of Analysis of Food Samples.

## SLAUGHTERING AND INSPECTION OF FOOD ANIMALS

An event of great consequence in 1954 was the cessation of meat rationing and the return to the private market for the purpose of slaughter of food animals.

Some concern was felt for a time as, of the nine slaughterhouses licenced in 1939, only one was in use and, with the exception of one medium sized slaughterhouse, all the others had been put out of use or were in a bad state of repair. However, the whole matter eventually sorted itself out and the one large slaughterhouse which had been used by the Ministry of Food during rationing continued to function as a private wholesale slaughterhouse and so far there does not appear to be a need for any additional facilities to be provided. There is one small slaughterhouse, for the slaughter of smallholders' pigs only, also in use. The change over worked quite smoothly and there have been no complaints as to lack of facilities.

The final report of the Government Interdepartmental Committee on Slaughterhouses is still awaited so that we are not yet certain whether or not Eastbourne will be an area in which a permanent satisfactory slaughterhouse will be established.

The efficient inspection of meat is an important function of the Public Health Service and it is pleasing to report that, notwithstanding considerable evening and week-end work, all food animals slaughtered have been inspected immediately after slaughter.

The handling and transport of meat from the slaughtering establishment and wholesale depots were under daily supervision.

# ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED FOR FOOD

				<i>Cattle excluding Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
Number Killed* .. .. .				2615	487	1649	7669	6805
Reason for Condemnation .. ..				<i>Number of Carcases Condemned</i>				
Diseases other than Tuberculosis	Whole carcases condemned .. ..			1	6	2	5	16
	Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned .. ..			801	235	—	483	454
	Percentage affected .. ..			30·7	49·5	0·1	6·4	6·9
Tuberculosis only	Whole carcases condemned .. ..			6	3	—	—	—
	Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned .. ..			190	101	—	—	45
	Percentage affected .. ..			7·5	21·4	—	—	0·7

\* ALL carcases were inspected.

## INSPECTION OF OTHER FOODS

The following is a list of food stuffs voluntarily surrendered by the vendors on being found to be unfit for human consumption:

Bacon (lbs.) .. .. .	66½	Marmite (jars) .. .. .	2
Biscuits (lbs.) .. .. .	1	Meat Products (lbs.) .. .. .	440
Butter (lbs.) .. .. .	8	Meat and offal (lbs.) .. .. .	817½
Cake (lbs.) .. .. .	13	Meat (2 lb. and less cans)	142
Cheese (lbs.) .. .. .	126½	Meat (4 lb. to 7 lb. cans)	190
Cheese (pkts.) .. .. .	62	Milk (cans) .. .. .	349
Cereals (pkts.) .. .. .	4	Paste, meat and fish (jars)	10
Chicken (jars) .. .. .	4	Peanut Butter (jars) .. .. .	2
Coconut (pkts.) .. .. .	3	Pickles, Sauces and Creams (jars)	17
Cream (cans and jars)	9	Poultry (lbs.) .. .. .	51
Eggs (doz.) .. .. .	15	Rabbit (cans) .. .. .	1
Farinoca (lbs.) .. .. .	23	Rabbit (lbs.) .. .. .	30
Fish (stones) .. .. .	46½	Sausages (lbs.) .. .. .	154
Fish (cans) .. .. .	72	Soup (cans) .. .. .	45
Fruit (cans and bottles)	548	Sponge Mixture (pkts.) .. .. .	9
Fruit, dried (lbs.) .. ..	162	Swedes (sacks) .. .. .	240
Ham (lbs.) .. .. .	431½	Syrup (lbs.) .. .. .	4
Jam and Marmalade, etc. (lbs.)	66½	Vegetables (cans) .. .. .	421
Lard (lbs.) .. .. .	1½	Vinegar (bottles) .. .. .	222
Margarine (lbs.) .. .. .	28½	Wippfat (ozs.) .. .. .	1

Two hundred and thirty-one inspections were made in connection with the above unsound food.

The majority of this food stuff was dealt with in small quantities and was disposed of by burning at the refuse destructor.

Unfit meat from butchers' shops and wholesale stores is disposed of under suitable safeguards for sterilisation and processing into animal food stuffs, etc.



# SAMPLING OF FOOD AND DRUGS

Samples of food and drugs were submitted to the Public Analyst as follows:

	Number Examined		Number Adulterated, etc.	
	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal
Almond Essenee .. .. .	—	1	—	—
Anadin .. .. .	—	1	—	—
Arrowroot .. .. .	1	—	—	—
Baking Powder .. .. .	1	—	—	—
Beef Suet .. .. .	1	2	—	—
Butter and Margarine .. .. .	5	—	—	—
Cake Decorations .. .. .	—	1	—	—
Cheese .. .. .	1	—	—	—
Coffee Spread .. .. .	—	1	—	—
Cornflour .. .. .	2	—	—	—
Cream .. .. .	—	1	—	—
Curry Powder .. .. .	1	—	—	—
Dessert Powder .. .. .	1	—	—	—
Doughnuts .. .. .	—	2	—	—
Dried Apple Rings .. .. .	1	—	—	—
Easter Egg .. .. .	—	1	—	—
Epsom Salts .. .. .	1	—	—	—
Essence of Rennet .. .. .	—	1	—	—
Flour .. .. .	1	—	—	—
Gelatine .. .. .	—	1	—	—
Ginger Wine and Beer .. .. .	1	1	—	—
Golden Raising Powder .. .. .	1	—	—	—
Gravy Powder .. .. .	1	—	—	—
Ground Almonds .. .. .	1	—	—	—
Ground Rice .. .. .	1	—	—	—
Honeycomb Mould .. .. .	1	—	—	—
Ice Cream .. .. .	9	3	1	—
Instant Postum .. .. .	—	1	—	—
Jam .. .. .	4	1	—	—
Jelly .. .. .	2	—	—	—
Marzipan Fruit .. .. .	—	1	—	—
Meat Pie and Meat Faggots .. .. .	—	2	—	—
Milk .. .. .	22	—	—	—
Mixed Peel .. .. .	1	—	—	—
Mock Cream and Meringue Powder .. .. .	—	1	—	—
Mustard .. .. .	1	1	—	—
Paste .. .. .	—	1	—	—
Pepper .. .. .	1	—	—	—
Raisins .. .. .	—	1	—	—
Raisin Flavoured Wine .. .. .	—	1	—	—
Sage, Sage and Onion Stuffing .. .. .	1	1	—	—
Sago .. .. .	1	—	—	—
Sap Green Colouring .. .. .	—	1	—	—
Sausages .. .. .	14	3	—	1
Savoury Relish .. .. .	—	1	—	—
Soft Drinks .. .. .	—	4	—	—
Soup Powder .. .. .	1	1	—	—
Cake Mixtures, etc. .. .. .	4	1	—	—
Sugar .. .. .	1	—	—	—
Sweets .. .. .	2	1	—	—
Tea .. .. .	2	—	—	—
Whisky, Brandy .. .. .	7	—	—	—
TOTALS .. .. .	95	39	1	1

## ACTION TAKEN WITH RESPECT TO SAMPLES REPORTED AS UNSATISFACTORY BY THE PUBLIC ANALYST

### Sample No. 677—Ice Cream

Deficient in Fat 11 per cent. Vendor prosecuted—Fined £20.

### Sample No. 552A—Pork Sausages (Informal)

Deficient in Meat Content 6.9 per cent. Formal follow-up samples proved to be satisfactory.

### *Other action taken under Food and Drugs Act*

A butcher was prosecuted for using premises for the manufacture of sausages before the completion of works which he had undertaken to carry out and before the premises were registered under Section 14 of the Act. He was fined £10.

### *Sausages*

The Minister of Food has requested local authorities, for statistical purposes, to furnish him quarterly with the results of the analyses of sausages, together with the price paid for same. It is of interest to note that the meat content of pork sausages ranged from 60·5 per cent. to 74 per cent. with an average of 68 per cent. and that the price range was from 2s. 5d. to 2s. 10d. per lb.

In the case of beef sausages the meat content was somewhat higher ranging from 71·5 per cent. to 91·5 per cent. the price range being constant at 1s. 11d. per lb.

## HOUSING

The inspections made by the Sanitary Inspectors for housing purposes were:

Dwelling Houses (Housing Act)	..	..	..	513
Dwelling Houses (Public Health Act)	..	..	..	257
Re-visits	..	..	..	848

The coming into force of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, with its requirement that local authorities should, within one year of the passing of the Act, submit to the Minister of Housing and Local Government their proposals for dealing with unfit houses and the establishment by Section 9 of that Act of a definite standard of fitness, necessitated a further inspection of those houses which had formerly been considered by reason of disrepair and sanitary defects to fall below the general standard of housing in the district. Many factors to which one had formerly to have refard were now repealed and the assessment of the fitness of a house based on the extent to which it is so far defective in one or more of the eight matters specified in the said Section 9 as to render it unsuitable for occupation in that condition.

On completion of the inspections a report was submitted to the Council in November on the condition of 111 houses which it was considered were unfit for habitation. It was suggested that these houses may be dealt with by the following methods:

### *(a) Clearance Areas*

Ninety-four houses were included in this group comprising eleven small clearance areas. The number of houses in the areas ranged from 3 to 17, thus it will be seen that there are no large areas capable of redevelopment.

In December official representations were made with respect to three of the small areas mentioned above comprising 7, 7 and 5 houses respectively. The Council subsequently declared the areas to be Clearance Areas. Later, Clearance Orders were made in relation to two of the areas and a Compulsory Purchase Order in connection with the other area.

The remaining eight areas will be dealt with over a period of five years.

### *(b) Individual Unfit Houses*

There are 14 houses in various parts of the town which are so far defective in one of more of the matters specified that they will probably be dealt with in due course as individual unfit houses not capable at reasonable cost of being made fit under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936.

### *(c) Houses owned by the Council*

These comprise a row of three houses on land which was acquired before the war for housing purposes. These are to be demolished as soon as practicable.

The report referred to was accepted by the Council and the Form of Proposals required by Section 1 of the Act of 1954 was subsequently submitted in the following form:

## HOUSING ACT, 1936. PARTS II and III

### HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT, 1954.—SECTION I

#### FORM OF PROPOSALS

Total number of permanent dwellings in the local authority's area .. ..		17,629
<b>PART I. THE TOTAL PROBLEM</b>		
(i)	Estimated number of houses unfit for human habitation within the meaning of Section 9 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, and suitable for action under Section 11 or Section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936 .. ..	111
(ii)	Period in year which the Council think necessary for securing demolition of all the houses in (i) .. ..	5
<b>PART 2. ORDERS ALREADY MADE, ETC.</b>		
(iii)	Number of houses in (i) in clearance areas and already covered by operative clearance or compulsory purchase orders or owned by the local authority .. ..	3
(iv)	Number of houses which are already in clearance areas and for which clearance or compulsory purchase orders have been submitted to the Minister but have not yet become operative .. ..	None
<b>PART 3. ACTION IN THE FIRST FIVE YEARS</b>		
(v)	Number of houses which are already in clearance areas and for which clearance or compulsory purchase orders are to be made or which are to be purchased by agreement within the five years .. ..	None
(vi)	Number of houses which are to be included in clearance areas still to be declared and which within the five years will be owned by the local authority or will have been included in a clearance order or a compulsory purchase order submitted to the Minister .. ..	94
(vii)	Number of houses under (iii), (iv), (v) and (vi) to be patched (if necessary) and retained within the five years under Section 2 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, for temporary accommodation .. ..	None
(viii)	Number of houses under (iii), (iv), (v) and (vi) to be demolished in the five years .. ..	97
(ix)	Number of houses (including those already comprised in operative demolition orders) to be demolished in the five years as a result of action under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936 .. ..	14
<b>ACTION TAKEN FOLLOWING INSPECTION OF HOUSES GENERALLY DURING THE YEAR</b>		
<b>1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses</b>		
(i)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts .. ..	780
(ii)	Number of dwelling houses found to be so far defective in one or more of the matters referred to under Section 9 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 as to be not suitable for occupation .. ..	114
(iii)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the previous sub-heading) found to be not reasonably suitable for occupation .. ..	191
<b>2. Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices:</b>		
	Number of defective dwellings rendered fit in consequence of informal action .. ..	163
<b>3. Action under Statutory Powers</b>		
<b>(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:</b>		
(i)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs .. ..	11
(ii)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:	
	(a) By owners .. ..	2
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners .. ..	6
<b>(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:</b>		
(i)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .. ..	7
(ii)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:	
	(a) By owners .. ..	5
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners .. ..	1

(c) Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(i) Houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made .. .. .	—
(ii) Houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders .. .. .	—
(iii) Houses closed but not demolished in pursuance of undertaking given by owners and still in force .. .. .	5
(iv) Undertakings, made in accordance with Section 11, cancelled, the houses having been rendered fit by the owners .. .. .	1
(v) Closing Orders made (Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953) .. .. .	—

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(i) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made .. .. .	—
(ii) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit .. .. .	—

4. *Housing Act, 1936—Overcrowding*

(i) Number of dwellings known to be overcrowded during the year .. .. .	39
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein .. .. .	72
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein .. .. .	311
(iv) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year .. .. .	17
(v) Number of persons concerned in such cases .. .. .	130

HOUSING ACT, 1949—IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Twenty-two applications for Improvement Grants were received of which 20 were with respect to individual houses, one with respect to improvements to 5 small cottages and one for the conversion of a large house into small separate dwellings for charitable purposes. Of the first group one was not approved and two were not proceeded with.

Whilst it is desirable that owner/occupiers should improve their properties to the extent of installing baths, domestic hot water systems, etc., it is to be regretted that more owners of rented houses do not take advantage of the grant provisions to carry out the type of improvement referred to above whereby an owner built wing rooms at first floor level over the existing kitchens to each of five small cottages and installed a bath, basin and domestic hot water systems in each. So many small houses need this kind of improvement.

HOUSING REPAIRS AND\*RENTS ACT 1954—CERTIFICATES OF DISREPAIR

Applications for Certificates of Disrepair .. .. .	24
Certificates granted .. .. .	20
Certificates refused .. .. .	4
Applications for Revocation of Certificates of Disrepair .. .. .	2
Certificates of Disrepair Revoked .. .. .	2

APPLICANTS FOR HOUSING ACCOMMODATION. ETC.

I am indebted to the Housing Superintendent for the information under this heading:

Total number of outstanding housing applications at 31st December, 1954 .. .. .	1,401
Number of families housed in requisitioned properties .. .. .	245
Number of family units rehoused during 1954 .. .. .	232
(including 76 families rehoused from requisitioned properties)	
Number of houses and flats built in Eastbourne in 1954: .. .. .	
By the Council .. .. .	174
By private builders .. .. .	136
	310



## GENERAL SANITARY INSPECTIONS

Visits and inspections made by the Sanitary Inspectors for general public health purposes were:

Complaints investigated .. .. .	606
Schools .. .. .	72
Camping Sites and Moveable Dwellings ..	158
Places of Public Entertainment .. .. .	11
Public Baths .. .. .	100
Drainage and Plumbing Works .. .. .	901
Land Charges Enquiries .. .. .	506
Stables and Piggeries .. .. .	85
Smoke Observations .. .. .	90
Pet Shops .. .. .	4
Factories .. .. .	266
Workplaces .. .. .	53
Outworkers' Premises .. .. .	29
Rag Flock Act Premises .. .. .	3
Shops (Section 38, Shops Act, 1950) .. ..	212
Departmental Properties .. .. .	260
Re-visits .. .. .	754
Infectious Disease Investigations:	
(i) Visits and Enquiries .. .. .	55
(ii) Houses Disinfected .. .. .	49

### STATUTORY NOTICES UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936

In the majority of cases it was found that owners and other persons responsible carried out works for the abatement of nuisances, the provision of dustbins, etc., without it being necessary to serve statutory notices. There were, however, some cases in which this procedure was found to be necessary, namely:

Section 75—To provide dustbins .. .. .	3
Section 93—To abate nuisances .. .. .	7
Sections 93 and 101—Smoke nuisances ..	1

At one premises it was necessary for the Council to provide a dustbin and recover cost. In one case the works necessary to abate a nuisance were carried out in default following the obtaining of a Nuisance Order and cost of works recovered from owner.

Action with respect to a smoke nuisance from a factory chimney was taken at the end of the year and the necessary follow-up carried on into 1955.

### DRAINAGE

The development of a Housing Estate at the east end of the town brought a sewer into proximity with a series of houses in an area which had formerly been unsewered. This enabled 24 houses to be connected to the sewers and 13 cesspools and 11 septic tanks abolished.

### MOVEABLE DWELLINGS AND CAMPING SITES

Applications were received as follows:

For licences to use land as a site for moveable dwellings .. .. .	4
For licences to station individual caravans .. .. .	7

One application to station a caravan was refused by the Council on the grounds of overcrowding of the caravan and the inaccessibility of the water supply. The applicant appealed and the Justices allowed the appeal.

### SCHOOLS

The sanitary and washing facilities at schools under the control of the local authority were kept under observation. The opportunity was taken during these visits to inspect school kitchens and dining rooms at those schools where meals are provided.



SHOPS ACT

Only Section 38 of the Shops Act, 1950, is administered by this Department. This section deals with the health, comfort, etc. of shop workers.

Failure to comply with the requirements of this section was dealt with without the necessity of formal action.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT

There were nine premises registered by the local authority under the provisions of this Act and frequent inspections were made to these premises to ensure that the provisions as to cleanliness of materials and bedding were complied with.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

The following tables indicate the inspections made and action taken under the provisions of these Acts.

1. INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH

	<i>Number on Register</i>	<i>Number of</i>		
		<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Written Notices</i>	<i>Occupiers Prosecuted</i>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities .. .. .	98	80	2	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority .. .. .	230	146	10	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ..	71	40	5	—
TOTAL .. .. .	399	266	17	—

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ..	2	2	—	1	—
Overcrowding (S.2) .. ..	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient .. ..	3	3	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	12	10	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	1	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (Not including offences relating to outwork) .. .. .	—	—	1	—	—
TOTAL .. ..	18	15	1	1	—

PART VIII OF THE ACT—OUTWORK

(SECTIONS 110 and 111)

	Section 110		
	No. of Out-Workers in August list required by Section 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists
Making, altering, etc. of Wearing Apparel	37	—	—
Household linen .. .. .	8	—	—
Lace, lace curtains and nets .. ..	1	—	—
Curtains and furniture hangings ..	6	—	—
Furniture and upholstery .. .. .	4	—	—
Umbrellas, etc. .. .. .	1	—	—
TOTAL .. .. .	57	—	—

SECTION 111. There were no instances found of work being done by outworkers in unwholesome premises.

### RODENT CONTROL

The necessary survey, inspections and action for the destruction of rats and mice, as required by the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, was continued and for this purpose two rodent operators were employed. Premises at which rats or mice were found, either on complaint or in the course of the survey, were dealt with in all cases by the Council's operators. Treatment in respect of private houses is carried out without charge but the cost of works in respect of business premises is recovered from the owner of the property and there has been no difficulty in connection with the payment for works carried out. The number of major infestations found has fallen considerably, this, I think, shows that the action over the last few years is now showing positive results and, further, that the occupiers notify the presence of the vermin much more quickly and so enable action to be taken before natural multiplication takes place. The table below shows the number of treatments and visits, etc., made:

	Type of property				Total
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agri-cultural	Business	
Number:					
Inspected on Complaint ..	15	288	—	10	313
Inspected on Survey or Investigation .. ..	98	643	40	263	1044
Found to be infested by:					
Rats: (a) Major .. ..	2	4	—	5	11
(b) Minor .. ..	4	216	—	7	227
Mice; (a) Major .. ..	4	8	—	35	47
(b) Minor .. ..	7	209	—	9	225
Treated by Operators ..	17	437	—	56	510
Visits for all purposes ..	295	5155	40	839	6329

Number of block control schemes carried out .. .. . 32

The above remarks apply principally to surface control, but there is an additional systematic treatment necessary for keeping down the number of rats in the sewers and for this purpose those portions of the sewers found to be consistently infested are baited twice in each year, usually in the months of June and November. Of the 1,500 or more sewer manholes in the Borough some 400 require to be treated either once or twice during the year. A test baiting in 10 per cent. of those not normally found to be infested is carried out as a preliminary to the summer treatment and any showing the presence of rats are included in the routine treatment. Unfortunately, it is still necessary to use the pre-baiting and poison bait method in treating sewers as the more effective "Warfarin" cannot stand up to damp conditions.

The results of the treatments carried out in June and November together with that of the previous November for comparison are shown in the table:

*Sewer Baiting Treatment*

	<i>Nov. 1953</i>	<i>June 1954</i>	<i>Nov. 1954</i>
(a) Manholes baited ..	350	347	361
(b) Showing medium to heavy infestation ..	124 (35·4%)	137 (39·4%)	212 (58·7%)
(c) Showing light infestation ..	143 (40·8%)	107 (30·8%)	71 (19·6%)
(d) Total showing infestation (b) and (c)	267 (76·2%)	244 (70·3%)	283 (78·3%)

## SECTION F

### WELFARE SERVICES

#### National Assistance Act:

Provision of Accommodation  
 Disabled and Old Persons' Homes  
 Blind Persons  
 Deaf and Dumb  
 Cripples  
 Financial Statistics

### NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

#### RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION (Section 21 (i) (a) )

According to the Act this is for persons needing care and attention not otherwise available to them. The greatest demand has been for admission to hospital beds for the chronic sick. The Local Authority has so far been able to meet all urgent requests for admission of the ambulant aged to Part III accommodation.

During the year increasing infirmity in the residents has been noticeable and I feel that this is inevitable in that persons should only be entering this type of accommodation when they are unable to manage for themselves. The great aim is to keep old people in their own homes as long as possible.

Accommodation has been provided at:

1. *Cavendish Lodge* for 26 men which was first opened in 1947 (prior to the passing of the National Assistance Act) and has remained filled to capacity. This home has the advantage of being centrally situated and close to the sea. It has, however, the disadvantage of no garden and of being furnished at a time when restrictions and permits were in full operation. Though upgraded in recent years is not up to the standard of the later Home.

During the year 14 men were admitted. There were 13 discharged and 1 died. The number at the end of the year remained at 26.

2. *Trevin Towers*. This Home for 45 men and women was officially opened in August 1952. It is situated in its own grounds in a good residential part of the town. It is considered that the accommodation provided is of a very suitable standard. It is proposed to furnish and equip any subsequent Home on similar lines.

During the year 4 men and 19 women have been admitted and 4 men and 15 women have been discharged, mostly to hospital. One man and 3 women died in the Home. At the end of the year 5 men and 40 women remained.

3. *Voluntary Homes.* In addition to the Homes provided and maintained by the local authority, use has been made of various voluntary Homes. In particular I would mention St. Luke's Home, Cliff Road, under the Community of All Saints. The value of the Home in dealing with urgent female admissions and in particular with the more infirm type of case has once again been very much appreciated.

During the year 17 cases were admitted, 12 discharged and 8 died. At the end of the year there were 26 cases the responsibility of this authority in the Home.

In addition to St. Luke's Home accommodation was provided at the following:

Bernhard Baron Cottage Homes, Polegate	..	1 woman
St. Elizabeth's Home, Seaford	.. ..	1 woman ( <i>died during year</i> )
Salvation Army Home, Wokingham	.. ..	1 woman
Westcliffe House, Westgate	.. ..	1 woman

#### 4. *Homes for Special Cases:*

(a) *Blind:* I must again pay tribute to The Wolds, College Road, the voluntary Home owned and maintained by the Society for the Social Welfare of the Blind in Eastbourne. No effort on the part of the matron, her staff and the voluntary helpers was spared to achieve the highest possible standard of care for the residents. Out of the 24 beds provided, this authority were responsible for 14 admissions. Discharges during the year were 10: there were 2 deaths and 19 remained in the Home at the end of the year.

(b) *Epileptic:* There was one temporary admission during the year and others accommodated at the end of the year were:

One at Chalfont Colony, Bucks.

Two at Lingfield Colony, Surrey—one of these being transferred to Hellingly Hospital and subsequently died.

#### 5. *Accommodation for the Temporarily Homeless (Section 21 (i) (b))*

The premises at 49 Pevensey Road continued in use until the 19th July, 1954, when the families were transferred to The Knowle, Friday Street, which has provided rather less cause for complaint from adjoining residents. During the year 9 families, comprising 9 men, 9 women and 18 children were admitted. Eleven families comprising 8 men, 11 women and 30 children have been discharged and at the end of the year 6 families remained, comprising 5 men, 6 women and 10 children, a reduction of 2 families and 13 persons on the previous year.

6. *Reception Centre (Section 17).* This continued to operate at St. Mary's Hospital under arrangements with the Regional Hospital Board. During the year a visit to the Centre was made by Sir Geoffrey Hutchinson, M.C., T.D., Q.C., Chairman of the National Assistance Board, who expressed himself as very satisfied. During the year the Centre was finally closed to women. The Centre provided accommodation for 11 men and was full on 60 nights, the average during the year being 7.27.

#### 7. *Welfare Services (Section 29)*

##### (a) *Blind Persons*

(i) *Incidence of Blindness:* During the year 52 B.D.8 Forms were received.



The causes of disability and treatment in respect of the cases certified as blind being as stated in the Table below:

	Cause of Disability			
	Cataract	Glaucoma	Retrolental Fibroplasia	Others
(1) Number of cases registered during the year in respect of which para. 7 (c) of Forms B.D.8 recommends:				
(a) No treatment ..	3	2	—	21
(b) Treatment (medical surgical or optical) ..	2	5	—	10
(2) Number of cases at 1 (b) above which on follow-up action have received treatment .. ..	1	5	—	9

During the year no cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum were notified under the Public Health (Ophthalmia Neonatorum) Regulations, 1926-37.

Of the cases recommended for treatment one had an operation for glaucoma, 13 persons received medical treatment, one received optic treatment, and 2 persons refused treatment.

(ii) *Registration*: There were 201 blind persons on the Register at the end of 1953. Forty-one new cases were certified in the year under review, 2 were re-certified having been previously de-certified and 9 were transferred to Eastbourne from other areas. Twenty-three persons died, 14 were transferred to other areas, 3 were removed from the Register as no longer blind and 1 as untaceable. The total on the Register at the end of the year was 212 (89 males and 123 females) in the following age groups:

Age Group	Males	Females	Total
Under 5 years .. ..	1	—	1
Between 5 and 15 years .. ..	2	—	2
Between 15 and 30 years .. ..	2	4	6
Between 30 and 50 years .. ..	15	4	19
Between 50 and 70 years .. ..	23	27	50
70 years and over .. ..	46	88	134
	89	123	212

At the end of the year of persons on the Register aged 60 and over 30 had glaucoma and 29 had cataract.

(iii) *Home Workers*: One blind man was included in the Home Workers Scheme of the National Institute for the Blind as a basket maker.

(b) *Partially-Sighted Persons*: The Council's scheme provided that the services for the blind shall also be generally available for the partially sighted. At the end of the year there were 59 partially sighted persons on the Register.



(c) *Grants to Voluntary Organisations (Section 30)*

(i) *Blind and Partially Sighted*: Once again a grant of £25 was made to the Society for the Social Welfare of the Blind in Eastbourne. It is to be noted that the services provided by the organisations are also available to the partially sighted.

(ii) *Deaf and Dumb*: The Sussex Diocesan Association for the Deaf and Dumb continued to act as the authority's Agents. At the end of the year 14 cases were on the Register. The capitation fee remained at £3 but an additional grant of 10s. per head of each registered deaf and dumb person was made for the year in agreement with other authorities.

(iii) *Cripples*: The authority's Agents are the Eastbourne Voluntary Association for the Care of Cripples. The average on the register throughout the year being 88. A grant of £15 was made in addition to a capitation fee of 30s. Excellent work was continued during this year by the Committee, the Voluntary Workers, and by all those associated with the work of the Handicraft Centre.

(iv) *Hard of Hearing*: The Eastbourne District Hard of Hearing Association, who are the Council's Agents, continued to be very active throughout the year. A grant of £25 was made as in the previous year.

(d) *Old People's Organisations (Section 31)*

(i) *Meals on Wheels*: I must again pay tribute to this most valuable service undertaken by the Women's Voluntary Service, assisting as it does, old people to remain independent longer, and has provided valuable service in cases of illness. During the year 6,609 meals were supplied or an average of 25·3 meals per day. The service was subsidised by the Council to the extent of £219 17s. 6d.

(ii) *Eastbourne Old People's Welfare Committee*: This body, responsible for the co-ordination of the various voluntary bodies continued to hold meetings during the year.

(iii) *Old People's Clubs*: In addition to those already listed a fourth full time club known as the Senior Citizens Club was opened in premises purchased and adapted as a result of a local appeal launched under Alderman Croft at the time when he was Mayor. At the time of writing a W.V.S. Darby and Joan Club is open in the former Victory Restaurant and in addition to normal club facilities provides the very valuable service of a mid-day meal at a moderate price for pensioners.

(iv) *British Red Cross Society—Chiropody Services*: This valuable service for old people was continued throughout the year.

## WELFARE SERVICES

The gross expenditure of the Authority on Welfare Services during the financial year ended 31st March, 1954 was £32,362 of which the net rate borne expenditure amounted to £21,317.

Comparable statistics for all County Boroughs (Averages), County Borough of Brighton, and East Sussex County Council taken from the Return of Welfare Services Statistics published by the Institute of Municipal Treasurers and Accountants (Incorporated) are as follows:

	<i>All County Boroughs</i>	<i>C.B. of Eastbourne</i>	<i>C.B. of Brighton</i>	<i>East Sussex C.C.</i>
(1) Number of persons accommodated in residential and temporary accommodation (1st January, 1954)	24,663	154	427	745
(2) Number per 1,000 population	1·80	2·69	2·72	2·22
<i>Highest C.B.</i> Gloucester	3·78			
<i>Lowest C.B.</i> Carlisle	0·86			
(3) Net expenditure per 1,000 population	£	£	£	£
(a) Residential Homes	220·55	273·80	330·85	318·40
(b) Temporary Accommodation provided by the Authority	7·90	15·80	3·70	—
(c) Special Welfare Services (Blind etc.)	66·00	23·05	59·75	42·65
(d) Other Expenses	66·70	66·40	91·20	62·00
(e) Total—Rate and Grant borne Expenditure	361·15	379·05	485·50	423·05

# SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

SCHOOL HEALTH DEPARTMENT,  
AVENUE HOUSE,  
EASTBOURNE.

31st May, 1955.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Education Committee.*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the forty-seventh Annual Report on the health of the school child and on the work of the School Health Department.

No radical changes were made during the year in the arrangements for Periodic and Special Medical Inspections, the findings of which did not differ greatly from the previous year and from which it may be said that the health of the school child in Eastbourne continues to be good.

A further decline in attendance at the Minor Ailments Clinics for treatment will be noted. Whilst this is probably due partially to a fall in the incidence of minor ailments in school children, it is also certain that with the implementation of the family doctor service under the National Health Service more children receive any necessary treatment from their family doctor.

This tendency is perhaps very much as it should be and enables the School Health Service team to devote more time to the adjustment of the child within the school surroundings and to the encouragement of healthy ways of living. Such work, whilst much less spectacular than the treatment of, say, rickets, anaemia or tuberculosis which was so much called for not so many years ago, is surely the most valuable function of the School Health Service.

Whilst it is true that gross physical disability is now comparatively a rare finding in school children, few parents would be able to testify to being free from considerable anxiety from time to time during the school life about their children's health and the emotional development. Whilst such problems as maladjustment, bed-wetting, poor appetite, nasopharyngeal infections, faulty posture, and alleged delicacy, are still with us, there remains considerable work to be done by the creative health services of which the School Health Service forms part.

Some setback occurred in the School Dental Service as a result of the well deserved promotion of Miss Jean Oswald to the Ministry of Health. Some months inevitably elapsed before a successor was able to take up his appointment.

The work of the School Health Service is greatly facilitated by the existence of the Open Air School and of St. Aiden's Special School for E.S.N. children. Likewise from the presence in our midst of the Chelsea College of Physical Education whose keen and active staff and students are more than willing to exercise their talents on local children is a very great asset.

I desire to express my appreciation to you, Mr. Chairman, and to members of the Education Committee for your continued support during the year. My renewed thanks are also due to the Chief Education Officer and his Staff for their continued and valued co-operation.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

K. VICKERY,

*Principal School Medical Officer.*

#### EDUCATION COMMITTEE

*(as constituted at 31st December, 1954)*

*The Mayor:*

Councillor LEWIS WILLIAM PYLE, J.P.

*Chairman:*

Alderman A. E. DAVIS

*Deputy Chairman:*

Alderman S. M. CAFFYN

*Alderman:*

A. E. RUSH, J.P.

*Co-opted Members:*

Rev. Canon L. E. MEREDITH  
Rev. Canon J. H. J. CORBALLIS  
Rev. G. E. HICKMAN JOHNSON  
Mrs. F. D. WHITWORTH  
Mr. W. ELLIOTT  
Mr. A. WILKINSON

*Councillors:*

E. O. FINCH  
Mrs. E. V. F. FORDHAM  
G. S. FOYLE  
W. E. HAFFENDEN  
W. P. LEBBON  
F. A. POPE  
Mrs. I. A. SNELL  
Mrs. K. J. UNDERHAY  
B. C. WILLIAMS  
A. G. E. JUDGE  
R. T. WATMORE

## SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

### (a) Full-time Officers:

#### *Principal School Medical Officer:*

K. O. A. VICKERY, M.D., B.S. (Lond.), M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

#### *Deputy Principal School Medical Officer:*

JESSIE GRIFFIN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

#### *School Medical Officer:*

MARJORIE I. GODSON, M.B., Ch.B.

#### *Principal School Dental Officer:*

MAURICE G. BERRY, L.D.S., R.C.S.

#### *School Dental Officer:*

MISS JEAN D. OSWALD, L.D.S., R.F.P.S.G.  
(to 31/10/54)

#### *School Nurses:*

Miss K. M. AVIS (Senior), S.R.N., H.V. Cert., Public Health Nursing  
Administration Certificate.

Miss J. C. M. BERK, S.R.N., H.V. Cert.

Miss E. L. CLARK, S.R.N., H.V. Cert.

Mrs. W. CLEMENTS, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert.

Mrs. L. FOSTER, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert.

Miss E. E. GRIFFIN, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert.

Miss M. G. HEMMING, S.R.N., H.V. Cert.

Mrs. S. M. JAMES, S.R.N., H.V. Cert.

Miss M. J. PARTRIDGE, S.R. N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert.

Miss D. J. SPOONER, S.R.C.N., S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert.

(The School Nurses are also Health Visitors)

#### *Clerks:*

Miss B. DOUCH (Senior)

Miss J. M. WRIGHT

#### *Dental Attendants:*

Mrs. D. S. ANDREWS

Miss D. D. SIDLEY (from 18/1/54)

Miss P. L. KNOX (to 26/1/54)



**(b) Part-time Officers:**

*Orthodontic Specialist:*

NORMAN GRAY, F.D.S., R.C.S., H.D.D., L.D.S., Dip. Orth. R.C.S.

*Orthodontic Assistant:*

H. G. GRIFFITH, B.D.S., L.D.S., R.C.S.

*Child Guidance Service:*

DORIS KATHLEEN SMALL, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., D.P.M.

Miss MARY GARSON, M.A., A.B.Ps., Educational Psychologist

Miss P. LOMAX, Social Science Certificate, Psychiatric Social Worker (to 15/5/54)

Miss R. VELVIN SMITH (from 1/10/54)

Miss E. D. SMITH, Clerk

*Speech Therapist:*

Mrs. K. HANSFORD, L.C.S.T.

**CLINICS**

The various Clinics were held as follows:

**EXAMINATION**

Acacia Villa	..	..	..	..	Fourth Friday, 10 a.m.
Avenue House	..	..	..	..	Thursday, 2.15 p.m.
Hampden Park Secondary School	or				
Highfield Primary School	..	..	..	..	Second Wednesday, 2.15 p.m.

(Additional Clinics were held at all three centres as and when required).

**MINOR AILMENTS**

Acacia Villa	..	..	..	..	Daily, 9 a.m.
Avenue House	..	..	..	..	Daily, 9 a.m.
Hampden Park Hall	..	..	..	..	Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9 a.m.
Open-Air School	..	..	..	..	Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9 a.m.
Green Street	..	..	..	..	Daily, 9 a.m.

**SPEECH THERAPY**

Avenue House	..	..	..	..	Tuesday and Wednesday during School Terms, 9.15 a.m. and 2.15 p.m.
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**CHILD GUIDANCE**

Avenue House:					
Psychiatrist	..	..	..	..	Monday, 9 a.m.
					Thursday, 9 a.m. and 2 p.m.
Educational Psychologist	..	..	..	..	Thursday, 9 a.m. and 2 p.m.

**OPHTHALMIC**

Princess Alice Hospital	..	..	..	..	Special sessions fortnightly, Friday 9.30 a.m.
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**DENTAL**

Avenue House	..	..	..	..	Daily, 9 a.m. and 2 p.m.
Anaesthetic Sessions	..	..	..	..	Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m.
Orthodontic Sessions	..	..	..	..	Friday, 9 a.m.

**CONTENTS**

1. Statistics.
2. School Hygiene.
3. Personal Hygiene.
4. Medical and Special Inspections.
5. Follow Up.
6. Arrangements for treatment.
7. Child Guidance Clinic (Psychiatrist's Report).
8. Handicapped Children.
9. Special Tuition.
10. Dental Care (Report of Principal School Dental Officer)
11. Difficult and Problem Families.
12. Employment of Children.
13. Provision of Clothing.
14. School Meals and Milk
15. Infectious Disease.
16. Tuberculosis.
17. Immunisation.
18. Deaths.
19. Training Colleges.

## 1. STATISTICS

The number of children on the School registers on re-opening in January, was 6,464 and 6,526 by the end of the year. One thousand, seven hundred and twelve children were admitted during the year; the net increase compared with the end of 1953 was 90.

The average attendance of children for the year was 6,048, a percentage of 92.69.

### TOTAL NUMBER OF CHILDREN

At Primary Schools	..	..	..	..	4,102
At Secondary Schools including Grammar Schools					2,344
At Special Schools	..	..	..	..	80
				Total	.. 6,526

## 2. SCHOOL HYGIENE

The standard of hygiene of school premises, subject to the limitations in certain schools of the accommodation provided, continued to be satisfactory.

## 3. PERSONAL HYGIENE

The School Nurses continued their routine term visits to schools to inspect the children for head and general cleanliness. Since the problem of infestation is a family one they persevered with their often thankless task of advising parents regarding prevention as well as treatment.

1. Total number of examinations in the schools by the school nurses .. .. 15,593
2. Total number of individual pupils found to be infested .. .. 53

Sixteen children were cleansed at the Authority's cleansing centres owing to the failure of the parents to deal satisfactorily with the condition.

The following table shows the trend which has taken place in the state of general cleanliness during the past six years.:

<i>Year</i>	<i>No. of Inspections</i>	<i>No. Infested</i>
1949	14,325	296
1950	14,451	174
1951	14,894	134
1952	15,833	89
1953	14,657	51
1954	15,593	53

#### 4. MEDICAL INSPECTION

Periodic Medical Inspections of pupils were carried out in the following age groups:

- (a) Every pupil admitted for the first time to a maintained school.
- (b) Every pupil attending a maintained Primary School on attaining the age of ten years.
- (c) Every pupil attending a maintained Secondary School in the last year of his or her attendance.
- (d) Every pupil attending a maintained school on attaining the age of seventeen years.

Total number examined in these age groups was 1,829. A percentage of 9.90 were found to have one or more defects other than dental disease or infestation with vermin requiring treatment.

#### GENERAL CONDITION OF CHILDREN INSPECTED

An estimate of the child's physical condition at the time of inspection was made and the children classified as follows:

Good condition	.. ..	.. 1,485 (81.19 per cent).
Fair condition (Satisfactory)	.. ..	.. 337 (18.43 per cent.)
Poor condition	.. ..	.. 7 (0.38 per cent.)

The above classifications do not necessarily give a true indication of the child's state of well being.

71.13 per cent. of parents were present during periodic medical inspections. Nearly all entrants were accompanied by a parent.

#### SPECIAL INSPECTIONS

These refer to children brought to the notice of the School Medical Officers by parents, teachers and school nurses.

Total number inspected 1,087.

In addition, 3,084 children who at previous examinations, periodic or special were noted for follow up, were seen by the Medical Officers.

#### 5. FOLLOW-UP

The necessary "follow-up" work in the homes and in the schools is done by the School Nurses:

Number of visits by Nurses to schools	.. ..	366
Number of visits by Nurses to schools for medical inspection	.. ..	194
Number of visits to homes of children by Nurses	.. ..	551

#### 6. ARRANGEMENTS FOR TREATMENT

Children who had defects were referred to their family doctor, to hospital for specialist opinion, or to the School Clinic for treatment of minor ailments and other special defects.

The fall in first attendances and re-attendances noted in previous years has continued as the following table shows:

## MINOR AILMENT CLINICS

	1954	1953	1952
Total number of children who attended	632	875	926
Total attendances made .. ..	1,245	1,896	2,154
Total number of defects treated ..	582	753	934
<i>Conditions treated were:</i>			
Impetigo .. .. .	28	52	61
Eye Diseases (external) .. ..	96	106	123
Ear Diseases .. .. .	17	41	42
Other skin diseases (boils, septic conditions, etc.) .. .. .	133	208	226
Miscellaneous (sprains, burns, cuts, etc.)	308	346	482
Totals .. ..	<u>582</u>	<u>753</u>	<u>934</u>

## SKIN CONDITIONS

For the second year in succession there were no cases of Ringworm or Scabies attending the Clinics and there was a marked reduction in the number of children attending for treatment of Impetigo.

## PLANTAR WARTS

Fifty-five children were known to have attended hospital for treatment of this troublesome condition. The wearing of communal plimsols is forbidden in children of school age and swimming is not allowed until the condition is cured.

## VISUAL DEFECTS

Using Snellens Eye Card or pictorial charts the vision of children in all schools was tested in the following age groups:

Age 5 years  
Age 7 years  
Age 10 years  
Age 12 years  
Age 14 years  
Age 17 years

No. of cases referred to	<i>New</i>	<i>Re-examinations</i>
Ophthalmic Clinic .. ..	222	216
Glasses prescribed .. ..	121	119

Children suffering from squint were supervised at the hospital Ophthalmic Clinic where orthoptic treatment was given when necessary.

## EAR, NOSE AND THROAT DEFECTS

Children suffering from these defects are sent to hospital for examination and treatment. When daily treatment is necessary for ear conditions, this is carried out in the School Clinics. Owing to improved methods of treatment and possibly to the improved physical condition of school children, chronic ear discharge is infrequent in this town.



## ORTHOPAEDIC DEFECTS

Children suffering from these defects attended the hospital Orthopaedic Department for examination and treatment. Exercises for postural and foot defects were given in suitable schools by third year students from the Chelsea College of Physical Education. Bare foot work is practised in infant schools where the flooring is suitable.

## DISEASE OF THE LUNGS

The troublesome conditions Bronchitis and Asthma affected many children during the year. All asthmatic children are referred (with the consent of the private Doctors) to the hospital Paediatrician for examination. In addition, the School Medical Officers keep them under supervision. Asthmatic children are encouraged to accept their "illness" and persuaded to attend school as often as possible.

## DISEASES OF THE HEART

Significant heart disease is now extremely rare in children. Four children were referred for treatment during the year and twenty-seven others were kept under observation.

## SPEECH DEFECTS

### *Report of the Speech Therapist*

Four weekly sessions were held during the school terms, and two sessions each month were spent visiting schools and homes. Part of one of the weekly sessions was given at St. Aidan's Day E.S.N. School, this school was visited 37 times during the year.

Number of cases under treatment at the beginning of the year	27
New cases referred during the year .. .. .	27
Number of clinic sessions .. .. .	162
Number of attendances .. .. .	684
Number of visiting sessions made by Speech Therapist to schools and homes .. .. .	20
Number of cases discharged .. .. .	17
Number of cases under treatment at the end of the year ..	30
Number of cases waiting treatment at the end of the year ..	4

#### Defects treated:

Deafness .. .. .	1
Sigmatism (faulty "s" sound) .. .. .	5
Dyslalia (defective articulation) .. .. .	21
Stammer .. .. .	11
Nasality .. .. .	1
Delayed Speech .. .. .	3
Spastic speech .. .. .	2
Cleft palate .. .. .	2
Other disorders .. .. .	4

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50

Discharged:							
Stammer—much improved .. .. .	4						
Dyslalia—clear speech .. .. .	8						
Delayed speech—clear speech .. .. .	1						
Cleft palate—fair result .. .. .	2						
Sigmatism—clear speech .. .. .	1						
Nasality—clear speech .. .. .	1						
	<hr/>						
	17						
	<hr/>						

Of the two cleft palate cases, one case achieved good speech and is having further orthodontic treatment.

Throughout the year parents and teachers were most co-operative.

*Signed* K. HANSFORD,  
Speech Therapist.

## 7. CHILD GUIDANCE CLINIC

The School Medical Officers carry out a full medical examination of all children before they attend the Child Guidance Clinic, and arrangements are made for the treatment of any physical defect(s) found. A detailed personal and family history is taken at this examination. These case histories show that emotionally disturbed children result from deep and faulty relationships between child and parent(s) and not necessarily as a result of housing difficulties or to what is generally known as "a broken home".

In many cases there is too long a wait for treatment at the Child Guidance Clinic and treatment when given is often lengthy and elaborate.

Prompt and practical help with advice to parents in the pre-school period is essential if these emotional disorders are to be avoided.

### REPORT OF THE PSYCHIATRIST IN CHARGE

Statistics relating to Eastbourne Children:

Number of Sessions .. .. .	84
Cases Seen:	
Old .. .. .	37
New .. .. .	50
	<hr/>
	87
Total Attendances .. .. .	520
New Cases referred during 1954 .. .. .	58
Cases treated:	
By Psychiatrist .. .. .	42
By Psychologist (excluding those seen by Psychiatrist) .. .. .	17
	<hr/>
	59

#### *Waiting List:*

1st January, 1954 .. .. .	13
31st December, 1954 .. .. .	24

# *Analysis of New Cases:*

A. Source:							
School Medical Officer	..	..	..	..	..	..	48
Parents	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Probation Officer	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
General Practitioners	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Others	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
							— 58
B. Reasons:							
Nervous Disorders	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Habit Disorders	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Behaviour Problems	..	..	..	..	..	..	26
Educational and Vocational Problems	..	..	..	..	..	..	21
Delinquency	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
							— 58

# *Analysis of Cases seen during 1954:*

A. By Psychiatrist:							
For Diagnosis	..	..	..	..	..	..	18
For Treatment	..	..	..	..	..	..	42

# *Analysis of Diagnostic Cases:*

Diagnosis and Advice	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
Treatment and case closed	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Under Treatment	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
							— 18

# *Analysis of Treatment Cases:*

Satisfactorily adjusted	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Improved	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Still under Treatment	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Observation	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
Closed unco-operative	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
							— 42

B. By Psychologist:							
(a) For ascertainment of I.Q.	..	..	..	..	..	..	47

# *Analysis of Ascertainment Cases:*

Advice regarding education	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Vocational Guidance	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Personality Test	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Maladjustment	..	..	..	..	..	..	27
Emigration	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
							— 47

# (b) *Coaching Cases:*

Receiving coaching at end of year, 1954	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Discharged unsatisfactory	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Discharged satisfactory	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Transferred	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
							— 17

# C. *Psychiatric Social Worker:*

Social Histories	..	..	..	..	..	..	23
Interviews	..	..	..	..	..	..	192
School Visits	..	..	..	..	..	..	19
Home and Other Visits	..	..	..	..	..	..	229

The functioning of the Clinic has been greatly handicapped this year by staff changes and illness.

(1) In May, the P.S.W., Miss Lomax, resigned and it was not until October that we were fortunate in having Miss R. Velvin Smith appointed as Social Worker.

(2) The Regional Board were unable to provide a locum psychiatrist to cover my four months of absence on sick leave.

These unavoidable circumstances have resulted in the carrying over at the end of the year of a waiting list of 24. A figure which would have been much larger had it not been for the good management and additional work put in by the remaining members of the team, Miss Garson, Psychologist and Miss Smith, Secretary and, later, Miss Velvin Smith.

*Signed, DORIS K. SMALL,*  
*Psychiatrist-in-Charge.*

### 8. HANDICAPPED CHILDREN

We are well aware of the claims of handicapped children to a normal home life and education in an ordinary school whenever possible.

For these reasons, children are carefully selected before recommending admission to our day open air school and boarding special schools. Those attending such schools are re-examined at frequent intervals to review their progress bearing in mind their transfer to an ordinary school.

The following table shows the number of children on the Register of Handicapped Pupils at the end of the year:

<i>Category</i>	<i>In Residential Special Schools</i>	<i>In Day Special Schools</i>	<i>In Ordinary Schools</i>	<i>In Hospital Schools</i>	<i>At Home</i>	<i>Total</i>
Partially Sighted ..	2	1	1	—	1	5
Blind .. ..	3	—	—	—	—	3
Partially Deaf ..	2	—	1	—	—	3
Deaf .. ..	4	—	—	—	1	5
Delicate .. ..	—	35	3	—	—	38
Physically Handi- capped .. ..	—	12	5	5	1	23
Educationally Sub- normal .. ..	—	32	—	—	—	32

#### EPILEPTICS

There are twenty children who are known Epileptics attending ordinary schools in the town (not on the Register of Handicapped Pupils).



# ST. AIDAN'S SPECIAL DAY SCHOOL FOR E.S.N. PUPILS

	<i>Boys</i>	<i>Girls</i>
Number on Roll, January .. .. .	28	7
Admissions .. .. .	5	—
Leavers .. .. .	5	3
Number on Roll, December	28	4

Of the five boys who left:

Four were transferred to Secondary Schools (2 to Bourne Secondary and 2 to Bedewell Secondary Schools)

One left at the age of 16 years and was notified to the Local Health Authority.

Three girls left at the age of 16 years to take up employment (1 was notified to the Local Health Authority).

MISS E. M. WILKES, Head Teacher, reports:

It was gratifying to hear of the progress of the four boys who were transferred to secondary schools.

## *Physical Training*

Once again we are grateful to Mr. Roberts, the Organiser of Physical Education, who arranged the first camping expedition at Wannock for our boys from May 28th to June 3rd. For some months before the trip the boys began to save up at school enough to pay for the cost of their food while at camp.

At camp the boys assisted in erecting the tents and constructing their own fireplace. They helped to light the fires, prepared and cooked their own meals and kept the camp clean and orderly.

The mid-day meals were supplied by the Schools Meals Service.

Every opportunity was taken to study points of interest in their surroundings. Visits were made to Birling Gap, Wilmington and other places of interest in the neighbourhood. Nature rambles were arranged and the boys made weather observations.

## EDUCATION ACT, 1954, SECTION 57

Children notified to the Local Health Authority:

Under Section 57 (3) .. .. .	—
Under Section 57 (5) .. .. .	1

## OPEN AIR DAY SCHOOL, BEECHY AVENUE, EASTBOURNE

Thirty-nine children were on the register of the Open Air School at the beginning of the year and were classified as follows:

Delicate .. .. .	29
Physically Handicapped .. .. .	9
Partially Sighted .. .. .	1

The children who left were placed as follows:

Transferred to ordinary schools .. .. .	7
Transferred to St. Aidan's E.S.N. School .. .. .	2
Left the district .. .. .	2
	11
Number of admissions .. .. .	20

The average duration of stay was 23 months.

The number of children on the register at the end of the year was 48:

Delicate .. .. .	35
Physically Handicapped .. .. .	12
Partially Sighted .. .. .	1

MISS B. A. PAYNE, Head Teacher, reports:

At the Open Air School the year has passed in unspectacular but steady progress.

The physical improvement sometimes outstrips the educational achievements but more often they go hand in hand, to the encouragement of the staff who hail each advance with delight.

To outsiders it may seem a small thing that David can now walk unaided across the playground; that Alan has at last expressed an audible and intelligible remark, or that Christine is willing to take a message to another class, but to those who have worked and watched for these very things to happen, these feats are victories indeed!

Swimming and gardening are still very popular activities, and students from Chelsea College of Physical Education continue to give remedial exercises and dancing lessons each week.

During the Summer a large audience attended a production of *Hiawatha* in which every child took part, and in December a Christmas Play was performed.

## 9. SPECIAL TUITION (HOME AND HOSPITAL)

One boy, aged 7 years, suffering from Haemophilia was unable to attend school. The Authority provided special tuition for him at home.

Nine children received education while in Hospital Special Schools:

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Royal Sea Bathing School, Margate	—	1
Victoria Home for Invalid Children, Margate .. .. .	1	—
Goldie Leigh Hospital School, Abbey Wood .. .. .	1	1
Tadworth Court Hospital, Surrey	1	—
Queen Mary's Hospital for Children, Carshalton .. .. .	1	—
Guy's Evelina Hospital .. .. .	—	1
Grove Park Hospital, S.E.12 .. .. .	1	—
Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital, Stanmore .. .. .	1	—

## 10. DENTAL CLINIC

Consequent upon the continued decline in the use of the suite of rooms on the ground floor of Avenue House designed for use in connection with minor ailments in school children, these premises were, during the course of the year, adapted for use as a Dental Clinic, thereby affording much improved facilities for the School Dental Officer. The room on the first floor thus vacated has allowed for much needed expansion of the Chest Clinic.

REPORT OF THE PRINCIPAL SCHOOL DENTAL OFFICER

SESSIONS

The number of sessions devoted to inspection and treatment were:

Principal School Dental Officer ..	449
School Dental Officer .. .. .	250

Of these, 37 sessions were devoted to routine inspections and 662 to treatment.

In addition, the Orthodontic Specialist carried out 46 sessions.

GENERAL SERVICES

At the 37 sessions devoted to periodic inspection, 4,599 children were seen in the following age groups:

Age ..	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	Total
Inspected	40	277	341	417	438	405	413	599	469	417	449	191	97	37	9	4,599

At the request of parents, a further 250 children were inspected at the Clinic. Of the 4,849 children inspected, 2,358, a percentage of 48.62 were found to require treatment. The number of sessions devoted to treatment was 662 and 2,466 children made 6,585 attendances.

The following is a summary of the treatments given:

Fillings:						
Permanent Teeth ..	..	..	..	..	..	2,475
Temporary Teeth	..	..	..	..	..	149
						<u>2,624</u>
Number of teeth filled:						
Permananet teeth	..	..	..	..	..	1,932
Temporary teeth	..	..	..	..	..	90
						<u>2,022</u>
Extractions:						
Permanent teeth ..	..	..	..	..	..	813
Temporary teeth	..	..	..	..	..	2,263
						<u>3,076</u>
Administration of General Anaesthetics ..						1,451
Other Operations:						
Permanent teeth ..	..	..	..	..	..	2,987
Temporary teeth	..	..	..	..	..	1,395
						<u>4,382</u>

The anaesthetic in use is Nitrous Oxide and Oxygen from a Walton apparatus.

## ORTHODONTIC TREATMENT

Forty-six clinic sessions were held throughout the year at the Central Dental Clinic and 131 children made 702 attendances.

Number of cases under treatment at the beginning of the year .. .. .	63
New patients during the year .. .. .	23
Treatment completed .. .. .	22
Left town, treatment not completed .. .. .	2
Failed to complete treatment .. .. .	4
Number of cases under treatment at end of year .. .. .	58
Number of cases waiting treatment at end of year .. .. .	20

Some orthodontic treatment was given at the ordinary dental clinics and 355 attendances were made by 32 children.

Dentures were supplied to 27 children.

Owing to depletion of professional staff in the Autumn, it was found impossible to carry out routine inspections at all the schools, and six schools totalling 1,520 children have had to be carried over into the ensuing year. Inspections at these schools will be completed during the early months of 1955.

At these routine inspections, 4,599 children were examined. These, together with the 250 special applications for treatment made a total of 4,849 children seen, of whom 2,358 were found to require treatment. Two thousand, four hundred and sixty-six children were actually treated during the year, the apparent discrepancy in figures being due to the fact that a number (585) were inspected towards the end of 1953, but received treatment in 1954. The numbers referred for treatment show a decrease of 5.11 per cent. compared with the previous year. In view of the fact that most dental authorities are now anticipating a steep rise in the caries rate, following the de-rationing of sugar and sweets, the position can, at least for the present, be regarded as satisfactory in relation to figures for the country as a whole. During the carrying out of these inspections, it is becoming increasingly apparent that the general dental condition of school children here is steadily improving, and that the numbers of badly neglected mouths are now almost negligible. This very small percentage consists of children who only attend for treatment when in pain. As soon as the pain is relieved, usually by extraction, no further attendances are made for conservative work, and no further dental treatment is carried out, until once again another extraction is required for the relief of pain.

Amongst those referred for treatment, the older age groups are found to be those that require the most extensive conservative work. It is therefore of the greatest importance, that after leaving school with efficient dentitions, constant supervision should be kept on this adolescent group. In the past, no easy facilities for treatment were available to them with the result that the first few



years after leaving school often showed a marked dental deterioration. Such circumstances no longer exist, as further dental supervision and treatment can be carried out, without cost to the patient, under the general Dental Service.

Routine inspections at the schools occupied 37 sessions and 662 sessions were devoted to treatment, carried out mainly at the Avenue House Clinic. However, as in previous years, to avoid loss of school time, conservative work was carried out on the school premises in the cases of Hampden Park Secondary, Highfield Primary and Swallows' Nest Schools.

Two thousand, four hundred and seventy-five fillings were inserted into permanent teeth, and one hundred and forty-nine into temporary teeth. Extractions totalled three thousand and seventy-six, of which 813 were permanent teeth. The majority of these extractions were carried out under general anaesthesia, nitrous oxide and oxygen, and this anaesthetic was administered in 1,451 cases.

The increase in the number of permanent teeth extracted (813 compared with 698 in 1953) is not due to any substantial increase in the number of unsaveable permanent teeth, but is due rather to the growing realisation that, to combat the ever increasing tendency to over crowding in the modern mouth, the sacrifice of perfectly sound permanent teeth is very often essential. Not all children will take kindly to the wearing of orthodontic appliances, and the judicious and timely extraction of permanent teeth, will prove of the utmost benefit in many of these cases.

The demand for orthodontic treatment continues to be heavy, and seems unlikely to decrease in the near future. At the special weekly clinics held under Mr. Norman Gray, the visiting Orthodontic Specialist, 131 children made 702 attendances for treatment. At these clinics, Mr. Gray was assisted by his partner, Mr. H. G. Griffith, and by the School Dental Officer, Miss Jean Oswald. A new aspect of orthodontic work was also undertaken by the introduction of a weekly class for breathing exercises, administered by visiting students from the Chelsea College of Physical Education. In addition to these special clinics, 32 children suffering from mal-occlusion of a less serious nature, received orthodontic treatment at the ordinary clinics.

Prosthetic work does not, as a rule, play a very big part in school dentistry, but several cases of traumatic injury to the front teeth, necessitating their subsequent removal, were treated, and the majority of the 27 artificial dentures constructed were to replace these lost incisors.

An outstanding event of the year was the publication in May of a memorandum from the British Dental Association on "Proposals for safe-guarding and improving the dental health of children".

In this comprehensive report, a full survey is made of all possible factors that may help towards attaining dental fitness, but nevertheless it is apparent that at the present stage of research, it must still be upon personal oral hygiene, together with the correct type of diet, that the greatest emphasis be laid. The report points out that "It has been shown that the incidence of caries may be reduced to about one half by thorough toothbrushing combined with mouth rinsing immediately after meals". The key word here is "thorough" since a toothbrush used inefficiently is useless. The School Dental Officers during their work at the chair-side can undertake a certain amount of the teaching of oral hygiene, but their time is mainly occupied in dealing with teeth already carious. I feel in this respect that the recommendation of the report "that in the School Dental Service full use be made of the service of oral hygienists (for scaling and polishing and educational duties)", would be worthy of consideration in the future.

*Signed, M. G. BERRY,*  
*Principal School Dental Officer.*

## 11. DIFFICULT AND PROBLEM FAMILIES

(a) The conditions under which 25 families were living were sufficiently unsatisfactory to justify the continued attention of School Nurses, Welfare Workers and other officers of the Department. In the case of 8 of these families, conditions were at times most unsatisfactory and considerable time and attention was devoted to them.

### (b) THE NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO CHILDREN

Mr. S. Clements, the local inspector, assisted the Department in 12 cases involving 34 children, of whom 20 were of school age. One hundred and forty-nine visits were paid to these families. The cases were classified as:

Neglect	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Ill-treatment	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Exposure	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Advice sought	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
							<hr/>
							12
							<hr/>

The Inspector also dealt with 70 other families. Of the 141 children in these families, 90 were of school age.

The classifications were:

Neglect	..	..	..	..	..	19
Ill-treatment	..	..	..	..	..	5
Beyond control	..	..	..	..	..	5
Moral Danger	..	..	..	..	..	7
Advice or aid sought	..	..	..	..	..	34
						<hr/> 70 <hr/>

The number of visits paid to these families was 436.

(c) JUVENILE CRIME. The Chief Constable, Mr. R. W. Walker, has kindly supplied the following statistics:

					<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Sent to Approved Schools	..	..			3	—
Fined	..	..	..	..	3	—
Probation	..	..	..	..	15	7
Convicted—conditional discharge	..				5	—
Otherwise disposed of	..	..			2	—
Pending	..	..	..	..	1	—
					<hr/> 29	<hr/> 7
Cautions	..	..	..	..	36	9
					<hr/> 65	<hr/> 16 <hr/>

#### 12. EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN

In connection with these Byelaws 90 children were examined and the necessary certificates provided.

The Department in close co-operation with the Youth Employment Service completed during the year 345 medical reports in respect of children who left the secondary modern schools, including 4 handicapped children.

#### 13. PROVISION OF CLOTHING

##### EDUCATION (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT, 1948, SECTION 5

Various articles of clothing were supplied by the Education Authority to 75 children from 40 families. Many articles of clothing were also obtained from voluntary sources, mainly the Women's Voluntary Services.

#### 14. SCHOOL MEALS AND MILK

I am happy also to report that a high standard of hygiene was maintained in the school canteens and that no cases of food poisoning were reported.

The receipt of Ministry of Education Circular 272 on the subject of Food Poisoning in School Canteens was, however, made the occasion of a meeting between the Chief Education Officer, the School Meals Organiser and myself. Existing practice and precautions were carefully examined and minor adjustments agreed upon as appropriate.

MISS B. M. CLARKE, Organiser of School Meals writes:

**HOT MID-DAY MEALS.** Of a total of 572,625 meals served, 55,791 were granted free. In the previous year, 575,032 meals were served, 57,194 being granted free.

The Victory British Restaurant closed on September 30th, 1954, and therefore the pupils of the Commercial School have had their meals supplied by Alma Road Central Kitchen to their own school, where a small dining room has been equipped.

In December, 1954, Firlie Road Mission Hall was closed and Bourne Junior are now accommodated at Bourne Infants' School.

The provision of 1-third pint bottles of milk to all educational establishments under the Milk in Schools Scheme, is now the responsibility of this department since the closure of the Food Office.

Children entitled to free meals were catered for at Victory Restaurant during the Easter and Summer Holidays, and at Trinity District School during the Christmas holidays.

The following table shows the number of children taking meals and milk in school on a given day in October. (Figures in brackets are those for the previous year).

<i>Date</i>	PRIMARY AND SECONDARY DEPARTMENTS					
	MEALS				MILK	
	<i>No. of Children in Schools</i>	<i>Free</i>	<i>Paid</i>	<i>Percentage taking Meals</i>	<i>Total taking Milk</i>	<i>Percentage taking Milk</i>
October	6,211	267	2,845	50·1% (49·4%)	5,364	86·3%

**HOLIDAY MEALS.** Meals were served during the three school holiday periods:

Easter—at Victory British Restaurant .. ..	806
Summer—at Victory British Restaurant .. ..	1,963
Christmas—at Trinity District School Canteen..	667
	<u>3,436</u>

Victory British Restaurant closed at the end of September, 1954.

## 15. INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Notifications of infectious disease relating to children of school age were:

Scarlet Fever .. ..	12
Whooping Cough .. ..	60
Measles .. ..	6
Acute Pneumonia .. ..	4
Dysentery .. ..	2

I am pleased to report that there were no cases of Poliomyelitis or Diphtheria in children of school age.



## 16. TUBERCULOSIS

Two children between the ages of 5 to 15 years were notified as suffering from non-pulmonary tuberculosis (1 boy and 1 girl).

School children contacts of notified cases of tuberculosis attend the Chest Clinic for regular supervision by the Chest Physician.

Ministry of Health Circular 22/53 was kept under active review. The existing commitments of the medical staff of the department were carefully examined and the Council agreed that no extension of the National Health Service proposals should be sought during the year.

## 17. DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

The number of children between the ages of 5 and 15 years immunised by the Medical Staff of the Department and those in these age groups in respect of whom records were sent in by General Medical Practitioners are as follows:

	<i>By Medical Staff of the Department</i>	<i>By General Medical Practitioners</i>	<i>Totals</i>
Primary Immunisation	17	10	27
Reinforcing Doses . .	552	104	656

According to our school medical records at the end of the year, 5,556 children out of 6,526 on the school registers had been immunised, giving a percentage of approximately 85.

## 18. DEATHS OF SCHOOL CHILDREN

Deaths of children of school age during the year were as follows:

Girl, aged 6 years	1	(a) Gen. Peritonitis (b) Bilateral Pyelitis. P.M.
Boy, aged 5 years	1	(a) Uraemia (b) Bilateral nyo-nephrosis (c) Neurogenic defect of kidney. P.M.
Girl, aged 6 years	1	(a) Acute confluent Broncho Pneumonia (b) Accelerated by lymphoid Hyperplasia. P.M.

## 19. TRAINING COLLEGES

Eastbourne is fortunate in having two first class teachers' training colleges—the Chelsea College of Physical Education and the Eastbourne Training College.

There is a close liaison between the department and the staffs of the colleges in regard to the health of the students and members of the staff of this Department give lectures at Chelsea College on Health Education and allied subjects.

Staff and students give valuable help to handicapped children and others with minor postural and orthopaedic defects by way of special classes held in the schools, the clinics and the baths.

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION**  
**MEDICAL INSPECTION RETURNS**

Year ended 31st December, 1954  
Local Education Authority: EASTBOURNE

TABLE 1

**MEDICAL INSPECTION OF PUPILS ATTENDING MAINTAINED  
PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS  
(INCLUDING SPECIAL SCHOOLS)**  
(This return refers to a complete calendar year)

**A.—PERIODIC MEDICAL INSPECTIONS**

Age Groups inspected and Number of Children examined in each:

Entrants .. .. .	547
10 Year Old .. .. .	539
14 Year Old .. .. .	507
Total .. .. .	1593
Additional Periodic Inspections .. .. .	236
Grand Total .. .. .	1829

**B.—OTHER INSPECTIONS**

Number of Special Inspections .. .. .	1087
Number of Re-inspections .. .. .	3088
Total .. .. .	4175

**C.—PUPILS FOUND TO REQUIRE TREATMENT**

Number of Individual Pupils found at Periodic Medical Inspection to Require Treatment (excluding Dental Diseases and Infestation with Vermin).

- NOTES—(1) Pupils found at Periodic Medical Inspection to require treatment for a defect should not be excluded from this return by reason of the fact that they are already under treatment for that defect.
- (2) No individual pupil should be recorded more than once in any column of this Table, and therefore the total in column (4) will not necessarily be the same as the sum of columns (2) and (3).

<i>Age Groups Inspected</i>	<i>For defective vision (excluding squint)</i>	<i>For any of the other conditions recorded in Table IIa</i>	<i>Total Individual Pupils</i>
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Entrants .. .. .	13	34	43
10 Year Old Group	18	18	34
14 Year Old Group	46	39	75
Total .. .. .	77	91	152
Additional Periodic Inspections .. .. .	15	17	29
Grand Total .. .. .	92	108	181

TABLE II

A.—RETURN OF DEFECTS FOUND BY MEDICAL INSPECTION IN THE  
YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1954.

NOTE.—All defects noted at medical inspection as requiring treatment should be included in this return, whether or not this treatment was begun before the date of the inspection.

Defect Code No.	Defect or Disease	PERIODIC INSPECTIONS:		SPECIAL INSPECTIONS:	
		No. of defects		No. of defects	
		Requiring treatment	Requiring to be kept under observation, but not requiring treatment.	Requiring treatment	Requiring to be kept under observation, but not requiring treatment.
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
4	Skin .. .. .	14	57	27	—
5	Eyes— <i>a.</i> Vision .. ..	*92	310	137	32
	<i>b.</i> Squint .. ..	2	59	3	1
	<i>c.</i> Other .. ..	1	44	30	—
6	Ears— <i>a.</i> Hearing .. ..	4	54	12	3
	<i>b.</i> Otitis Media ..	—	34	1	—
	<i>c.</i> Other .. ..	—	9	9	—
7	Nose or Throat .. ..	28	303	54	13
8	Speech .. .. .	1	38	10	5
9	Cervical Glands .. ..	2	199	2	—
10	Heart and Circulation ..	—	25	4	2
11	Lungs .. .. .	4	88	8	6
12	Developmental—				
	<i>a.</i> Hernia .. ..	—	11	—	—
	<i>b.</i> Other .. ..	1	29	13	1
13	Orthopaedic—				
	<i>a.</i> Posture .. ..	11	44	2	—
	<i>b.</i> Flat Foot .. ..	3	25	—	2
	<i>c.</i> Other .. ..	21	185	26	8
14	Nervous System—				
	<i>a.</i> Epilepsy .. ..	1	3	1	3
	<i>b.</i> Other .. ..	1	3	4	—
15	Psychological—				
	<i>a.</i> Development ..	1	6	—	5
	<i>b.</i> Stability .. ..	2	83	33	3
16	Other .. .. .	11	57	113	11

NOTE.—\* This figure should normally be equal to that shown as the grand total of Column (2) ("For defective vision (excluding squint)") of Table I.C.

B.—CLASSIFICATION OF THE GENERAL CONDITION OF PUPILS INSPECTED DURING THE YEAR IN THE AGE GROUPS (See Note on Table 1.)

Age Groups Inspected	Number of Pupils Inspected	A (Good)		B (Fair)		C (Poor)	
		No.	% of col. 2	No.	% of col. 2	No.	% of col. 2
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Entrants .. ..	547	447	81·72	100	18·28	—	—
10 Year Old Group	539	458	84·97	77	14·29	4	0·74
14 Year Old Group	507	381	75·15	125	24·65	1	0·20
Additional Periodic Inspections ..	236	199	84·32	35	14·83	2	0·85
Total ..	1829	1485	81·19	337	18·43	7	0·38

NOTE.—The figures in Column (2) should normally equal those detailed under Table 1A.

TABLE III  
INFESTATION WITH VERMIN

- (i) Total number of examinations in the schools by the school nurses or other authorized persons .. .. . 15,593
- (ii) Total number of *individual* pupils found to be infested .. .. . 53
- (iii) Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing notices were issued (Section 54 (2), Education Act, 1944) .. .. . —
- (iv) Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleaning orders were issued (Section 54 (3), Education Act, 1944) .. .. . —

NOTES.—A statement as to the arrangements made by the Local Education Authority for the examination and cleansing of infested pupils should appear in the body of the Principal School Medical Officer's Report. All cases of infestation, however slight, should be recorded. The return should relate to individual pupils and not to instances of infestation.

TABLE IV  
TREATMENT OF PUPILS ATTENDING MAINTAINED PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS (INCLUDING SPECIAL SCHOOLS).

- NOTES.—(a) Treatment provided by the Authority includes all defects treated or under treatment during the year by the Authority's own staff, however brought to the Authority's notice, i.e. whether by periodic inspection, special inspection, or otherwise, during the year in question or previously.
- (b) Treatment provided otherwise than by the Authority includes all treatment known by the Authority to have been so provided, including treatment undertaken in school clinics by the Regional Hospital Board.

(N.B.—The information asked for in this table falls into these two Divisions (a) and (b) except in Group 5 (Child Guidance Treatment).



GROUP 1—DISEASES OF THE SKIN (excluding uncleanness, for which see Table III).

	<i>Number of cases treated or under treatment during the year</i>	
	<i>by the Authority</i>	<i>otherwise</i>
Ringworm— (i) Scalp .. ..	—	—
(ii) Body .. ..	—	—
Scabies .. ..	—	—
Impetigo .. ..	28	—
Other skin diseases .. ..	133	162
Total .. ..	161	162

GROUP 2— EYE DISEASES, DEFECTIVE VISION AND SQUINT

	<i>Number of cases dealt with</i>	
	<i>by the Authority</i>	<i>otherwise</i>
External and other, excluding errors of refraction and squint .. ..	96	103
Errors of refraction (including squint)	—	420
Total .. ..	96	523
Number of pupils for whom spectacles were		
(a) Prescribed .. ..	—	240
(b) Obtained .. ..	—	Information not available

GROUP 3.—DISEASES AND DEFECTS OF EAR, NOSE AND THROAT

	<i>Number of cases treated</i>	
	<i>by the Authority</i>	<i>otherwise</i>
Received operative treatment		
(a) for diseases of the ear ..	—	1
(b) for adenoids and chronic tonsil- itis .. ..	—	173
(c) for other nose and throat con- ditions .. ..	—	—
Received other forms of treatment ..	17	277
Total .. ..	17	451

GROUP 4.—ORTHOPAEDIC AND POSTURAL DEFECTS

(a) Number treated as in-patients in hospitals .. .. .	5	
	<i>by the Authority</i>	<i>otherwise</i>
(b) Number treated otherwise, e.g. in clinics or out-patient departments..	—	56

GROUP 5.—CHILD GUIDANCE TREATMENT

	<i>Number of cases treated</i>	
	<i>in the Authority's Child Guidance Clinics</i>	<i>elsewhere</i>
Number of pupils treated at Child Guidance Clinics:		
By Psychiatrist .. .. .	42	—
By Psychologist only .. .. .	17	—
	59	—

GROUP 6.—SPEECH THERAPY

	<i>Number of cases treated</i>	
	<i>by the Authority</i>	<i>otherwise</i>
Number of pupils treated by Speech Therapists .. .. .	59	—

GROUP 7.—OTHER TREATMENT GIVEN

	<i>Number of cases treated</i>	
	<i>by the Authority</i>	<i>otherwise</i>
(a) Miscellaneous minor ailments ..	131	—
(b) Other than (a) above (specify) ..		
1. Appendicitis .. .. .	—	62
2. Fractures .. .. .	—	13
3. Minor Injuries .. .. .	161	624
4. General Debility .. .. .	—	4
5. Other .. .. .	—	194
Total .. .. .	292	897

TABLE V

DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT CARRIED OUT BY THE  
AUTHORITY

1) Number of pupils inspected by the Authority's Dental Officers:								
(a) At Periodic Inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4599
(b) As Specials	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	250
								<hr/>
								Total (1)
								4849
								<hr/>
2) Number found to require treatment	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2358
3) Number offered treatment	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2358
4) Number actually treated	..	..			(585 from 1953)			2466
5) Attendances made by pupils for treatment	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6585
								<hr/>
6) Half days devoted to: Periodic Inspection	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	37
Treatment	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	662
								<hr/>
								Total (6)
								699
								<hr/>
7) Fillings: Permanent Teeth	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2475
Temporary Teeth	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	149
								<hr/>
								Total (7)
								2624
								<hr/>
8) Number of teeth filled: Permanent teeth	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1932
Temporary teeth	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	90
								<hr/>
								Total (8)
								2022
								<hr/>
9) Extractions: Permanent teeth	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	813
Temporary teeth	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2263
								<hr/>
								Total (9)
								3076
								<hr/>
10) Administration of general anaesthetics for extraction	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1451
11) Other operations: Permanent teeth	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2987
Temporary teeth	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1395
								<hr/>
								Total (11)
								4382
								<hr/>

# INDEX

	<i>Page</i>
Aged, Provision for .. .. .	67
Agencies for Nurses .. .. .	49
Ambulance Service .. .. .	34
Animals Slaughtered for Food .. .. .	58
Ante-natal care .. .. .	22
Bacteriology .. .. .	48
Baths, Swimming .. .. .	54
Individual .. .. .	53
B.C.G. Vaccination .. .. .	38
Births .. .. .	15
Blind Persons .. .. .	68
Camping Sites .. .. .	64
Cancer .. .. .	15
Care of Mothers and Young Children .. .. .	21
Cerebral Palsy .. .. .	51
Chest Physician's Report .. .. .	38
Child Guidance Clinic .. .. .	79
Child Minders .. .. .	49
Children Act, 1948 .. .. .	50
Child Welfare Centres .. .. .	22
Chiropody Service .. .. .	70
Convalescence .. .. .	40
Cripples .. .. .	70
Day Nurseries .. .. .	26
Deaf and Dumb .. .. .	70
Deaths .. .. .	13
Dental Care .. .. .	24
Diphtheria Immunisation .. .. .	31
Domestic Help Service .. .. .	42
Epilepsy .. .. .	51
Factories Acts, Inspections .. .. .	65
Defects .. .. .	65
Outwork .. .. .	66
Food Inspection .. .. .	54
Food Poisoning .. .. .	48
Geriatric Service .. .. .	28
Guardianship Society .. .. .	44
Health Education .. .. .	41
Health Visiting .. .. .	28
Home Nursing .. .. .	29
Homes, Mother and Baby .. .. .	23
Old Peoples' .. .. .	67
Residential .. .. .	68
Registration of .. .. .	49
Voluntary .. .. .	68
Housing, Action under Statutory Powers .. .. .	62
Informal Action .. .. .	61
Inspection of Dwelling Houses .. .. .	61
Ice Cream .. .. .	57
Immunisation, Diphtheria .. .. .	31
Whooping Cough .. .. .	33
Infant Mortality .. .. .	14
Infectious Diseases, Notifications .. .. .	47
Information, Summary of local .. .. .	16



	<i>Page</i>
Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts .. .. .	43
Maternal Mortality .. .. .	15
Meat, Inspection .. .. .	58
Medical Aid .. .. .	28
Medical Examinations .. .. .	51
Mental Deficiency Acts .. .. .	44
Mental Health Service .. .. .	43
Meteorology .. .. .	17
Midwifery Service .. .. .	27
Midwives Act .. .. .	51
Milk Supply .. .. .	56
Mother and Baby Homes .. .. .	23
National Assistance Act .. .. .	67
Notices, Informal .. .. .	62
Statutory .. .. .	64
Notifications, Births .. .. .	15
Infectious Diseases .. .. .	47
N.S.P.C.C. .. .. .	50
Nurseries and Child Minders Regulations Act .. .. .	49
Nursery, Day .. .. .	26
Nurses Agencies .. .. .	49
Nursing Equipment, Loan of .. .. .	41
Nursing Homes .. .. .	49
Occupation Centre .. .. .	43
Old Peoples Organisations .. .. .	70
Post-Natal Care .. .. .	22
Premature Infants, Care of .. .. .	23
Prevention of Illness, Care and After Care .. .. .	36
Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951 .. .. .	65
Reception Centre .. .. .	68
Registration, Blind Persons .. .. .	69
Dairies and Milk Distributors .. .. .	56
Disabled and Old Persons Homes .. .. .	69
Nurseries and Child Minders .. .. .	49
Nursing Homes .. .. .	49
Rodent Control .. .. .	66
St. John Ambulance Brigade .. .. .	34, 41
Sanitary Circumstances of Area .. .. .	52
Sanitary Administration .. .. .	54
Sampling, Food and Drugs .. .. .	56
Ice Cream .. .. .	57
Milk .. .. .	56
Shops Act .. .. .	65
Smallpox Vaccination .. .. .	31
Statutory Notices .. .. .	64
Still Births .. .. .	15
Swimming Baths .. .. .	54
Tuberculosis, B.C.G. Vaccination .. .. .	38
Chest Physician's Report .. .. .	38
Mass X-ray .. .. .	40
Register .. .. .	37
Statistics .. .. .	37

	<i>Page</i>
Unmarried Mothers .. .. .	23
Vaccination against Smallpox .. .. .	31
Venereal Diseases .. .. .	48
Vital Statistics .. .. .	12
Voluntary Organisations .. .. .	41, 70
Water .. .. .	58
Welfare Foods .. .. .	23
Whooping Cough Immunisation .. .. .	33

## SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

### INDEX

Child Guidance .. .. .	80
Clinics .. .. .	74
Deaths .. .. .	91
Defects and Treatment .. .. .	78
Dental Care .. .. .	85
Difficult and Problem Families .. .. .	88
Diphtheria Immunisation .. .. .	91
Employment of Children .. .. .	89
Follow-up .. .. .	77
Handicapped Children .. .. .	82
Infectious Disease .. .. .	90
Medical and Special Inspections .. .. .	77
Medical Inspection Returns .. .. .	92
Personal Hygiene .. .. .	75
Provision of Clothing .. .. .	89
School Hygiene .. .. .	75
School Meals and Milk .. .. .	89
Special Tuition .. .. .	84
Statistics .. .. .	75
Training Colleges .. .. .	91
Tuberculosis .. .. .	91



